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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Text' of GCC Ministers Meeting Statement

LD2908133689 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] foreign ministers ended their 32d session this afternoon in Jeddah under the chairmanship of Bahrain's Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah.

After the session, GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bishara read a press statement issued by the 32d ministerial council session. Here is the text:

The Ministerial Council held its 32d session in the city of Jeddah on 28-29 August 1989.

The council reviewed the situation in the area and the developments in the talks between Iraq and Iran. It also reviewed the Palestinian issue, the situation in the Lebanon, the subjects to be discussed by the nonaligned states in Belgrade, and the minutes of the ministerial committees within the framework of their work concerning implementation of the economic agreement.

The council studied the situation in the area from all angles, and in accordance with the policy of the council to support the efforts of the UN secretary general to implement Security Council Resolution 598, the council has decided to call on the chairman to intensify contacts with the UN secretary general on behalf of the council. The aim is to support his efforts and to stress the policy of the council on strengthening his efforts to implement Security Council Resolution 598 and to continue the efforts with members of the Security Council and with other states so that they can play their part in supporting the secretary general.

The council also recalled the final statement of the ninth session of the Supreme Council on the courageous Palestinian uprising and in harmony with the Casablanca summit resolutions concerning the uprising and its steadfastness. The council expressed its continuing support for the struggle of the Palestinian people for their legitimate right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state. It lauded their heroic stand and their steadfastness against Israel's inhuman actions in the occupied territories. The council demanded that the international community in general and the Security Council in particular should shoulder their responsibilities by taking measures that will ensure a halt to Israel's oppressive measures of destruction, deportation, violation of rights, and the seizing of property.

The council reviewed the situation in Lebanon. It expressed deep concern and extreme agony over the state of affairs in this fraternal Arab country. The council lauded the comprehensive report of the three-man Arab committee, which included details of the committee's aims and its plan of action. The council also praised the committee's Arab and international contacts and noted the obstacles it has encountered in the course of implementing the mission entrusted to it by the extraordinary Arab summit conference in Casablanca on ending the Lebanese crisis. The council noted the painful tragedy that is being endured by the Lebanese people and which is intensifying, causing the fall of more innocent victims and the spread of total destruction and devastation in Lebanon in a way which not only threatens Lebanon's security and stability but also threatens its existence as an entity and the integrity of its territory.

Within this framework the council expressed its total support for the committee's report and calls on all sides concerned to remove the obstacles that stand in the way of the committee and to cooperate with it. The council stressed that any delay in arriving at the desired settlement of the crisis will perpetuate the situation, with all that this may bring in the way of dangers that threaten the unity of Lebanon, its sovereignty, and its independence.

The council also expressed appreciation for the international community's support for the Casablanca extraordinary Arab summit's resolution on Lebanon and its support for the committee's efforts to implement the resolution.

The council reviewed the minutes of the various ministerial committees and decided to approve them. It also stressed the need for further steps to realize more resolutions within the framework of implementing the economic agreement and in accordance with the Manama Declaration and the resolution of the ninth summit in Bahrain.

Egypt, Sudan Said To Continue Defense Pact

PM2908101389 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 23-29 Aug 89 p 10

[Unattributed report: "Joint Defense Between Egypt and Sudan To Continue"]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned that during meetings held recently in Cairo, Khartoum, and Addis Ababa Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC], agreed to continue to work under the joint defense agreement signed by the two countries in 1976, contrary to the Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi government's decision to abrogate it. Mubarak and Al-Bashir also agreed on the need not to announce that position now because the Sudanese RCC approach in the stage ahead is to resolve the problem of the South and start negotiations with the Sudanese People Liberation Army [SPLA] under John Garang in Addis Ababa, especially as some of the southern forces have reservations about the agreement. The Egyptians and the Sudanese have avoided making official statements on bilateral relations or making reference to the agreement or each party's position on it, contenting themselves with what was agreed between Mubarak and Al-Bashir.

Palestinian Affairs

West Europe Said Urging Baker-'Arafat Talks

PM2908141989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Aug 89 p 1

[Zaki Musa Shihab report: "European Efforts To Convene Meeting Between 'Arafat and Baker"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Arab diplomatic sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that preparations are being made to convene a meeting in New York between president Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian state, and U.S. Secretary of States James Baker in November during the UN General Assembly session whose proceedings begin in September every year.

The sources said that, according to the reports they had read, a number of Western capitals—with London, Paris, Rome, and Athens in the forefront—are urging the convening of such a meeting in order to boost the efforts being made to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The sources added that a U.S. step toward convening the meeting would be tantamount to appeasement of the Palestinian leadership, which has protested at the U.S. failure to make a real move to raise the level of the dialogue with the PLO.

The sources attributed the European role in preparing for that meeting to the Israeli leadership's failure to offer anything that would open the door to solutions, especially to the intransigent Israeli position on the election plan proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and to the Israeli occupation authorities' failure to abort the intifadah.

The sources also said that there is information indicating that Western capitals received promises from Israel that the fire of the intifadah would be extinguished before the end of summer as a result of the recent escalation of repressive measures against the residents of the occupied territories.

They added that the nonrealization of those promises has begun to prompt the Western capitals to make a move to stop the Israeli acts of murder against the Palestinians.

They attributed the fact that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has not made any steps forward—despite the several rounds held—to these promises.

The sources linked the silence that accompanied the meeting between U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Pelletreau and Fatah Central Committee member Hakam Bal'awi to the uproar that followed Pelletreau's meeting with Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad), which was stirred up by a number of U.S. senators. [passage omitted]

'Retreat' in U.S.-PLO Dialogue Noted

JN2908183089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] In Tunis, Fatah Central Committee member Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has stated that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has recorded a retreat as the United States stressed at the fourth session of the dialogue its adherence to the Israeli prime minister's plan for elections in the occupied territories. He added that U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau, who is in charge of holding contacts with the PLO, has conveyed to the Palestinians Israel's refusal to meet with a mixed delegation of Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories. This was originally a U.S. proposal aimed at breaking the deadlock.

Abu-Iyad said the language Pelletreau used and the attitude he adopted during that meeting made the Palestinians declare their rejection of any official contact between Palestinians in the occupied territory and the Israelis. Dialogue with the Israeli peace forces, however, will continue.

The Palestinian official indicated that, following the failure of the fourth session of dialogue, several initiatives will be taken to convince the Americans that slowness and partiality do not encourage peace. He said: A memorandum will be sent to several states to explain what we, the PLO, have done for peace and what Israel has done, and to prove the partiality of the U.S. position in support of Israel. He added that the PLO will hold direct talks with the UN Security Council member states on this matter.

Abu-Iyad said that the PLO will try to perpetuate and intensify the intifadah [uprising] in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, noting that the acts of violence against the Israelis express the despair resulting from the political impasse.

'Abd-Rabbuh Interview on Lebanon, Talks Cited

JN2908185489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1658 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Vienna, 29 Aug (INA)—A senior Palestinian official has called for an Arab solution to the Lebanese crisis that would enable the Lebanese people and their legitimate institutions to impose their authority on the entire country and protect Lebanon's unity and independence.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of PLO's Information Department, said in an exclusive interview with INA in Vienna today: On this basis, we supported the mission of the six-way committee and the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca on Lebanon. On this basis also, added 'Abd-Rabbuh, we supported Iraq's call for an emergency Arab summit so that all Arab countries can shoulder their responsibilities toward Lebanon.

Asked whether president Yasir 'Arafat will attend the UN General Assembly session in September, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that Palestine has the right to occupy its seat at the United Nations and to take part in the deliberations of the General Assembly in accordance with the valid international laws.

He said: We do not think that the foolish act by the U.S. Administration against the PLO last year can be repeated this year, especially as 157 states have voted in favor of international legitimacy and the right of the PLO to address the world from the General Assembly's rostrum.

'Abd-Rabbuh was referring to the refusal by the previous U.S. Administration to grant Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to attend the previous UN General Assembly session.

Asked to evaluate the third UN regional symposium of nongovernmental European organizations on the Palestine question, which concluded here today, 'Abd-Rabbuh said the symposium was of particular importance because it grouped international organizations that support our people's struggle at all levels.

On the outcome of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, 'Abd-Rabbuh, who heads the Palestinian side to the dialogue, said: We cannot say there has been tangible progress in the dialogue; the United States cannot impose the worn-out ideas of Shamir's plan on us.

He said the question we always asked the U.S. Administration was: How can the elections lead to an integrated political solution—that is, to an end of the Israeli occupation and self-determination for the Palestinian people? The U.S. Administration, however, always avoided giving a clear answer to this question.

'Abd-Rabbuh praised the supportive position adopted by Europe toward the Palestine question and said this stand is in line with international legitimacy and the need for an even-handed and just peace in the region.

He added: We are looking forward to seeing a more dynamic European stand to affect U.S. policy on one hand and, on the other, to force the Zionist entity to change its position, which totally rejects the basis of a just peace.

He said the United States, in its dialogue with the PLO, still tries to avoid the substantive problems of the Palestine question, which has prevented the dialogue from achieving positive and tangible results. However, he added, there was some progress in the statements of President George Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker on the need to end the Zionist occupation.

The symposium, attended by some 400 delegates and observers representing nongovernmental European organizations and world and Palestinian figures, ended 2 days of meetings here today.

The symposium was entitled "The Role of Foreign Aid in Meeting the Requirements of Social and Economic Development of the Palestinian People... From Occupation to Independence." Ways to support the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] against the Zionist occupation, the role of these organizations in providing assistance to the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories, and the impact of the oppressive Zionist policies against the residents of the occupied territories, were discussed.

The sixth UN international meeting of nongovernmental organizations on the Palestine question opens at the UN center in Vienna tomorrow.

Further on 'Abd-Rabbuh Remarks

AU2808131689 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1000 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO delegation in the talks with the United States, by Armin Wolf in Vienna—recorded; 'Abd-Rabbuh statements in English with superimposed German translation; passages in boldface in original English]

[Wolf] Mr 'Abd-Rabbuh, after the first rounds of talks between the PLO and the United States, can you give us a first survey, the first results of these negotiations?

['Abd-Rabbuh] **Well, in fact, up to now we did not reach substantial results, but the dialogue will continue.** We believe that the PLO's proposals should be discussed by the U.S. Administration **so that we can proceed. Our proposal was that the elections in the occupied territories should be part of a** comprehensive **political process that will lead to the end of occupation** as stated by the Americans themselves, and which, of course, will result in the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and **coexistence between the two states, the state of Palestine and the State of Israel—this peaceful coexistence, which should be guaranteed internationallly as we have suggested.**

[Wolf] Must this end to the occupation, as you have said, immediately result in an independent Palestinian state?

['Abd-Rabbuh] **What we demand, in fact, is the application of the UN Security Council Resolution 242** which has been accepted by all parties **for more than 20 years. And this resolution calls for withdrawal, complete withdrawal from the occupied territories.** In addition, it is quite clear that the right to self-determination, to a state, is the right of all peoples, **including our people.**

[Wolf] However, there is, for example, also the proposal of the Israeli Labor Party that the withdrawal from the territories will take place if the West Bank unites with Jordan and there is no independent state in the West Bank. Could you agree to this as a precondition for elections?

['Abd-Rabbuh] **Neither the Labor Party of Israel nor any other party could impose upon us or** upon Jordan what kind of relations we want to have. We have always advocated a confederation between a Palestinian state

and Jordan. However, these two peoples, the Palestinians and the Jordanians, must agree on this. We will not force anything on Jordan and the Jordanian people. **This should be done in a democratic way and I do not believe that the Israelis should interfere in this matter. This is a bilateral matter between the two peoples, the Jordanian and the Palestinian people.**

[Wolf] What have been the main differences between you and the United States so far?

['Abd-Rabbuh] **The United States up till now is not willing to say what will be the next step after elections. What our people want is the right of self-determination, the right to be a free nation and not to be free voters only.**

[Wolf] Is an international Middle East conference, as repeatedly requested by the PLO and repeatedly rejected by the Israelis, a precondition for the elections?

['Abd-Rabbuh] **It is not a precondition. We are looking at the question of an international conference from a pragmatic and practical point of view to preserve the future of peace in the Middle East. The whole world does not know why Israel** rejects an international conference which can be the **only frame that will** guarantee peace **to all parties concerned in the conflict in the Middle East** and, at the same time, demands security guarantees.

Shaykh al-'Alami on Israeli Policy Toward Peace

JN2708064589 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Aug 89 pp 1, 17

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami, head of the Higher Islamic Council in Jerusalem, revealed a new attempt to assassinate him. He said the terrorist Me'ir Kahane, chief of the racist Kakh Movement, handed him a memo giving him the choice of either accepting $1 million Jordanian dinars in return for the shaykh's allowing Jews to pray in al-Aqsa mosque, or death.

He told AL-DUSTUR that he gathered Muslims in the blessed al-Aqsa and read out the text of Kahane's memo. He also informed them of his reply in which he said that a world full of gold is not as valuable as a grain of al-Aqsa soil.

His eminence clarified that the Zionist terrorists had attempted to assassinate him many times, had burned his car and home twice, and beaten him up. They still attempt to kill him in any possible way.

He referred to another memo sent to him by Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek which included terrorist and obscene remarks because of his participation in a conference held in the Vatican upon invitation of a Christian society. He said that this was followed by a statement which indicated that the Zionist entity does not want peace. What sort of peace can there be with Israel and its army, which kills children, blows up homes, and practices the ugliest forms of terrorism?

His eminence said: I am not affected by threats or punishment. I have become immune to them. As long as I am alive I shall continue my course to protect al-Aqsa. Only the creator of the soul can claim it.

He added that the blessed intifadah [uprising] continues to realize new victories daily. Our slogan in the occupied homeland is either victory or martyrdom. He affirmed that the flame of the intifadah will not wane so long as Israel is occupying our country. I would like to set the minds of Muslims and Arabs at ease: The Palestinian popular revolution did not start to calm down again so long as stones exist on our holy land.

He said that the Israeli aggressions continue against the territory, people, and holy shrines. However, these oppression methods will only increase the determination of our people to struggle, fight, and insist on realizing the national demands and Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories.

He said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's election plan is not a new element in the discussions or negotiations. Its aim is to gain time to abort the intifadah and appear before the world public opinion, especially the United States, as the one proposing peaceful projects.

He said the United States is standing as an obstacle before the Palestinian Arab People's national rights. It is providing the occupation authorities with the destruction and death machines and with billions of dollars and tons of weapons to continue occupation of our territory.

His eminence believes that the U.S. Administration is capable of exercising pressure on Israel to respond to the calls for just peace through the international conference. However, it does not intend to exercise any pressure toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region.

PLO's Qaddumi Interviewed on U.S. Dialogue

JN2708135289 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Aug 89 p 4

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Political Department, by Ghassan Zaqtan in Tunis—date not given]

[Text] [Zaqtan] Following the conclusion of Fatah's fifth congress and within the context of the reactions appearing on the results of the congress—whether organizational or political—which were different in their analysis, the American reaction, certain Western and, naturally, the Israeli ones have labeled the congress resolutions as "inflexible" and have even considered them "rings" around the Palestinian political initiative. How do you view these results? Can they contribute toward bolstering the Palestinian peace initiative?

[Qaddumi] The comments made by different foreign parties regarding the fifth congress were different and numerous. Some of those were positive, others negative. In particular, the United States, with its biased position on Israel, has made negative comments about Fatah's congress, although certain European parties made positive comments and praised the flexible spirit of the Fatah fifth congress. It seems that the United States did not see in the congress' political resolutions anything except a comment written by a female media commentator in the White House about Fatah's language toward Israel, which she described as contemptuous.

The political resolutions welcomed the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions and the Palestinian initiative. They also denounced international and state terrorism. At the same time, they confirmed the Palestinian people's right to their homeland—Palestine, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, and their right to self-determination and repatriation to their homeland.

All of this is natural. However, the United States—which is, according to Bush, Israel's friend, strategic partner, and ally—always likes to view the PLO as if it were an organization isolated from the Palestinian people, as if it did not represent all Palestinian people. This issue must be settled. Europe has settled this issue in the statement issued in Madrid. It said the PLO must take part in all phases of settlement talks and it is the party to represent the Palestinian people.

But, the United States is still hesitating. It does not recognize the PLO as a sole legitimate representative. It does not recognize the right to self-determination and our right to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. The United States tries to pressure the European states into giving it a free hand so that it can carry out another experiment similar to the "Camp David" experiment. It wants to monopolize the political settlement in the region. However, it does not realize that it is now dealing with a revolution and that the militants in the PLO cannot be tamed easily, but that responding to their demand will facilitate things.

We see that the intifadah [uprising] has created a situation on the ground which neither Israel nor the United States can change. Israel began to live a historic crisis after this period of time. The Israeli plan, which was first adopted by Europe before almost completely abandoning it now, failed. This plan was then adopted by the United States although it is fully aware that the Palestinian intifadah cannot be dealt with through armed violence and the tools of oppression and that the only way to deal with it is to hold political dialogue with the PLO over the essential issues and the means to achieve a just political solution in the region that will guarantee the Palestinian people's national rights. However, if the United States continues to pursue this policy, tension will increase in the region and this may lead us to more anxieties and complications in the solution to the Middle East crisis.

Hence, we see that in its congress, Fatah was in harmony with itself; with its historic resolutions; and with the PNC direction for a just settlement and its trend to sell this peace initiative, which the whole world—except the United States and Israel—welcomed.

[Zaqtan] In the latest round of the Palestinian-American dialogue, the U.S. delegation was said by news sources to have presented new ideas inspired by proposals from the Israeli Labor Party regarding the mechanism of the proposed solution. Cited in this context were points like withdrawal from cities, inclusion of Jerusalem in the elections, and guarantees for those who are elected as well as involving Palestinian figures from outside in the second phase. How did you react to these points?

[Qaddumi] Since the dialogue began the United States has been addressing marginal points that do not touch on the heart of the matter—procrastinating without coming to the point as if it were attempting to buy more time for Shamir and the ruling clique in Israel to liquidate the intifadah or to sell Shamir's token elections to world public opinion as a real peace initiative. This way, the United States is hampering the peace process in the region. When all its efforts focus on side issues, the United States cannot possibly advance the peace process, but only heighten tension. The United States has not put forward any ideas but adopted the Shamir plan for token elections as if all that mattered were elections. Washington has spurned an international consensus on the international conference grouping the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and based on the the national rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to self-determination.

The one nation taking a stand at variance with the international community is the United States. We harbor no illusions that the dialogue with the United States will get us anywhere, as the road to liberation lies in sustained militant action through the intifadah and the daily energetic action. This is because the United States cannot possibly alter its course or political line before it realizes that its interests are at stake and that it has to meet Palestinian demands. The day will come when the United States feels that way and then it will accommodate Palestinian claims. It was during the negotiations between the Vietnamese and the the Americans that the heaviest U.S. bombing raids took place. This is the American way of thinking; it knows the language of force and militancy only.

[Zaqtan] We now have an advanced European stand and a pressing Soviet role. Then there is coordination between the Soviets and French on more than a front. And above all, there is the ongoing intifadah. All these factors combine to press for a solution. How much longer do you see the United States refraining from putting pressure on Israel? There has been talk about a time limit that has been given to Rabin?

[Qaddumi] The United States will not bring any kind of pressure to bear on Israel. It will, however, come up

against new facts. The United States will be asked by Israel to extricate it from the escalating intifadah inside the occupied land. The Americans will move when the Israeli society is thrown off balance and this is bound to happen. Israel is experiencing a historic crisis and is now fraught with political and social divisions. The Israeli leaders are perplexed and are at a loss as to how to handle the intifadah as a historical phenomenon that can only be approached from a political perspective. The United States will eventually find itself faced with just one option, and that is to accommodate and recognize the national rights of the Palestinian people.

[Zaqtan] You attach importance to interactions within the Israeli community. How can the Palestinian dialogue with some Israeli forces serve to heighten conflicts inside the Israeli community? [sentence as published]

[Qaddumi] It is known that the Palestinian people have, over the past few years, stepped up their revolutionary movement and consolidated their self-confidence. The PNC has decided to conduct a dialogue with the democratic Jewish forces that support the Palestinian rights in and outside Israel. The PLO has been pursuing this policy for several years. This policy, however, has its basic regulations, and there are Palestinian constants that cannot be bypassed. Any dialogue must take place outside the occupied territories because dialogue inside these territories would be one between ruler and ruled. There are occupation authorities who impose themselves on the Palestinian people; nationalist leaders there face various political and psychological pressures. That is why we prefer any dialogue with these forces to be held outside the occupied territories. We are ready for these dialogues, and we, in fact, held several dialogues on the basis of the Palestinian stands adopted by the PNC. The Israelis, however, are reluctant to hold a dialogue because they want, inside the occupied territories, to impose their ideas and tactics concerning the Palestine question—something which we absolutely reject.

[Zaqtan] Does this include all the Israeli forces? Some of these forces do not fully support all Palestinian legitimate rights as determined by the PNC and Fatah congress, although these forces are part of what has come to be known as the peace camp in Israel.

[Qaddumi] Circumstances for free dialogue inside the occupied territories are lacking, and this is why we advise against holding dialogues inside these territories. These dialogues with the democratic and progressive Israeli forces must be held outside the ocupied Palestinian territories.

[Zaqtan] The current events in Lebanon, which followed the failure of the tripartite committee and its final statement—which held Syria responsible for the obstruction of a solution to the country's problem—are now moving toward internationalization. These events must have a negative impact on the Palestinian moves: To some extent, they overshadowed the intifadah in the occupied territories, in addition to their destructive effect on the people and land of Lebanon.

[Qaddumi] Very regrettably, the escalation of violence in Lebanon has harmed the Palestine question. There are plans for creating further violence in Lebanon. Syria can be more flexible and can provide the Lebanese forces with the opportunity to meet and reach agreement. We believe that these forces can reach agreement if the Syrian forces withdraw from Greater Beirut and give the Lebanese parliament the opportunity to meet, elect a speaker, and discuss reforms as demanded by the popular nationalist forces in eastern and western Lebanon alike, whether Muslims or Christians. But regrettably, this fabricated escalation has harmed the Palestine question.

The Arab summit had formed a tripartite committee drawn from Saudi Arabia, Morocco, and Algeria and tasked it with finding a solution, but, regrettably, Syrian intransigence was the reason behind the failure of this Arab committee, which the Security Council had supported and requested the resumption of its mission after its report, which blamed Syria's intransigent position.

[Zaqtan] In your opinion, in what direction can things develop in Lebanon in light of those events which may actually lead to the internationalization of the crisis there?

[Qaddumi] Very regrettably, the Syrian deterrent forces entered Lebanon in 1976 and we had the Palestinian-Syrian clash. We were against these forces entering [Lebanon], and our opinion was that Syria should not get involved in these civil events, but should act as a mediator between the nationalist forces, the other forces, and the Palestinians. Very regrettably, what happened happened, and the Syrian forces entered. An Arab summit conference was then held in Cairo after a mini-summit was held in Riyadh and a Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese conciliation took place.

Very regrettably, however, these situations did not develop in a manner that would preserve security in the region. On the contrary, the camps war was fabricated and Israel was left to act freely in southern Lebanon as if the Lebanese crisis was only a civil crisis or a war among those national forces while leaving Israel in the south occupying it, utilizing its waters, and diverting its rivers to its advantage. This, in our opinion, is one of the tragedies which we feel Lebanon is suffering from. So, let us leave Lebanon to decide its destiny by itself so that it can preserve its territorial sovereignty, national unity, and the unity of its forces.

[Zaqtan] Very recently, there was talk about resuming dialogue between Syria and the PLO through an Algerian mediation. Is there anything new in this regard?

[Qaddumi] As long as events are taking place in Lebanon, the conditions are not appropriate for dialogue with Damascus. This is because situations are tense and do not help in holding such a dialogue.

[Zaqtan] Are the events in Lebanon the decisive factor in this halt?

[Qaddumi] Undoubtedly, the events in Lebanon constitute one of the main factors. There was an Algerian mediation and we were prepared for the dialogue. But, very regrettably, the events in Lebanon started and the dialogue stopped.

[Zaqtan] There are indications on a new phase in the relationship with Jordan or a new concept for this relationship which may constitute the exit from the current relative political stalemate. Within this context came president 'Arafat's visit to Amman and the reopening of the headquarters of the Palestine National Fund, and a number of other Palestinian institutions, there. Does this have any connection with certain developments or the open-door policy which are observed in Jordan these days?

[Qaddumi] Jordan has a very great importance for the Palestine question. Our people in Jordan are one people and the PNC resolutions have stipulated that relationship with Jordan is a distinguished one. We believe that the future relations can be built on the basis of a confederation. This is our opinion. However, the two brotherly peoples have the final say.

Following the disengagement with Jordan, this relationship became stronger and more entrenched. Undoubtedly, Jordan is a broad gate to the West Bank and Jordan is the home to millions of our people. Jordan is our brother, and Jordan's stability—whether political or economic stability—is to the advantage of the Palestine question. Hence, it is our policy to strengthen this Palestinian-Jordanian relationship and to develop it on a sound basis. This is one of the main points in the strategy of our revolutionary action to liquidate the Israeli occupation and establish our independent Palestinian state.

[Zaqtan] Do you expect any new measures to boost this direction?

[Qaddumi] To boost these relationships? Undoubtedly, during the phases of the international conference a coordination must be established among all frontline states because it is necessary for all sides concerned with the conflict—including the PLO, the UN Security Council's five permanent members, and the Arab frontline states—to take part in this thing.

[Zaqtan] There are two schools of thought regarding the direction of the intifadah, with some saying it is subsiding, and others maintaining that it is expanding and deepening. The intifadah leadership, probably for the first time, has called a weeklong strike. Action intensifies at one point only to die down elsewhere. And sometimes the whole occupied land is swept by action.

[Qaddumi] The revolutionary experiences of the intifadah have taught it to learn new ways on a daily basis. It innovates action to promote its objectives. There is no doubt that strikes are one of the actions pursued by the intifadah. And you have revolutionary violence as carried out by the children of the stones. Enemy forces will never show accommodation unless they feel that they are helpless against the daily struggle of the Palestinian people. We ought not to be too gullible or trusting as far as Israel and the United States are concerned. The one language the enemy understands is revolutionary violence. It is vital that the intifadah should be sustained. Struggle by rotation is also a must. The various districts rotate revolutionary action, thus giving an opportunity for normal life to carry on. It is important that the masses be afforded an occasional respite to rejuvenate and mobilize. There is no question that diversifying militant tactics in the occupied land is essential. You have various tactics: Passive resistance, meaning disobedience of the laws; and active resistance, through stone-throwing and other aggressive acts. Thus, we have a passive approach of withholding cooperation and an active one represented in various forms of aggressive action. Unquestionably, the violent, democratic struggle waged by Palestinian masses has won them political gains and international recognition as well as the sympathy of the international community. As a result, many countries, including those in Europe, have developed their political stances, especially those that had all along adopted Israel's case. Some have even shifted their positions and spoken out against Israel's brutal behavior and urged that it desist from these practices. The PLO has been recognized as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people as has been their right to self-determination. And the call for convening the international conference as the proper vehicle for working out a fair settlement has grown more vocal.

[Zaqtan] You have been described by Arab and foreign press reports as a hardliner and said to harbor reservations about the Palestinian-American dialogue as well as contacts by Palestinians with Israeli forces?

[Qaddumi] Regarding the American-Palestinian dialogue, we are under no illusions that it will produce the hoped-for results. The dialogue, has, however, created an opening for Palestinian forces to address U.S. public opinion and to work on a daily basis toward changing it, and this is a slow process. Revolutionary action inside the occupied land will produce quicker results. The intifadah has managed to move revolutionary action to the interior. This is the right thing to do if we are to promote the national objectives set by the intifadah and the PNC. As for the dialogue with the Jewish democratic and progressive forces, it has been endorsed by the PNC. But as a foreign minister I don't think I have to conduct a dialogue with forces that have no official capacity.

I am not ready to hold a dialogue under the table, as they say. I support open dialogue. The Palestinian people have restored their self-confidence, and there is nothing that prevents dialogue with these forces. This is a PNC resolution. However, if there were political levels such as the prime minister or the president of the state, then this is natural, because this means that they recognize us. [sentence as published] I have openly said that we hear

Shamir saying that we are terrorists, and Sharon says that Yasir 'Arafat must be killed. So, how can one hold dialogue with these terrorists who have not changed anything in their mentalities? When the Israeli mentality changes, the Israelis will be forced to negotiate with the Palestinians at an international conference. This day will come. However, in accordance with the PNC resolution, there are brothers who are entrusted with conducting a dialogue, and they are doing their job well and leading this conflict in a very skillfull manner. I consider this one of the major fields, and we have made great achievements in this field.

[Zaqtan] Is there anything you would like to add?

[Qaddumi] If we have to say something, then we say that the stage we are experiencing is a delicate one. As a dynamic force, the intifadah was able to create a new situation on the ground that Israel cannot ignore. The continuation of the intifadah in this manner is the means to achieve its national objectives. We should not have the least illusion that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue can produce the aspired results. However, the intifadah is the factor that forces the United States to recognize our right to self-determination. This dialogue is similar to the relations between the United States and the USSR since World War I. They had a dialogue and they had two embassies. However, they did not reach detente except after 47 years. Relations are one thing and reaching results is another. We must not close the dialogue. However, we should not have the illusion that the dialogue can produce positive results in a short time. This is because the United States adopts a pragmatic policy and understands the language of package deals. These package deals come when the United States feels that its interests in the region will be harmed. Therefore, we should basically mobilize Arab force, achieve solidarity, and settle Arab differences. This is a basic issue because it constitutes the front that supports the Palestinian people's daily struggle. This violent democratic struggle should continue inside the occupied territories. We should not have the illusion that the political settlement will be achieved in a short time. On the contrary, the closer we get to settlement and the more we rely on ourselves, the more violent, more organized, and the stronger our struggle becomes. This is because the stage of international detente should freeze part of the big powers and their intervention in regional conflicts. The big powers said that regional conflicts should be settled through peaceful means. This means that regional forces will continue to be a decisive factor in battles. This should urge us to develop our intrinsic power because eventually, it will be decisive. The popular war of liberation proved that it is more capable of achieving goals although it is slower than classical war. This is because it polarizes political forces that were hostile to us such as the European and other forces that have begun to change their stands. This has even taken place in the United States. Let us pursue our struggle and let it be on a rotational basis.

The most important thing is the continuation of the intifadah because it is the means to strike Israel's heart. We frankly and clearly say that Israel's strategic importance has decreased in the West, particularly in Europe. It no longer has the same importance it used to have since its establishment. Israel is suffering from several diseases. The successive blows will weaken it. It is the intifadah that sends these hot currents to strike Israel's nerves and heart and to fragment its forces. This intifadah is a slow war of attrition that will eventually achieve its national objectives of establishing a Palestinian state and the right to self-determination. We must not be deluded by Israel's force, because history favors the Palestinian struggle and its national objectives.

Egypt

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Cairo 30 Aug

NC3008103889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo at noon today on a short visit during which he will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak and a number of senior officials.

Kuwaiti Amir, Delegation Continue Visit

Support for Lebanon Committee

NC2908143489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Ismailia, 29 Aug (MENA)—Information Minister Safwar al-Sharif said the Lebanese issue and the deteriorating situation in Lebanon topped the agenda of topics discussed by President Husni Mubarak and His Highness Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah. During their talks this morning, the two leaders also reviewed the ongoing contacts at the Arab level.

The information minister added that the two Arab leaders reiterated their support for the Tripartite Arab Committee and the need to give it a chance to find a solution to the Lebanese crisis. They also agreed to back Arab efforts seeking to resolve the Lebanese crisis and put an end to the deteriorating situation in Lebanon.

Minister al-Sharif added that the two leaders had reviewed developments in the Palestinian issue as well as the African issue, since His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah leads the Islamic Conference Organization while President Mubarak heads the OAU. He added that the dialogue between the Arab and Islamic worlds was high on the two leaders' agenda.

Al-Sharif pointed out that the discussion between the two leaders also centered on the distinguished and deep-rooted relations between the two countries, noting that the two leaders' views on the topics discussed were identical.

Trade, Loan Agreements Signed

LD2908094689 Kuwait KUNA in English 0818 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, Aug 29 (KUNA)—Kuwait and Egypt signed here Tuesday [29 August] two agreements following official talks grouping ministers and senior diplomats of the two parties.

The first agreement facilitated trade exchange and customs regulations between both countries and was signed by Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasim Muhammad al-Kharafi and Egyptian Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa.

According to the second agreement, Kuwait would loan Egypt 10 million Kuwaiti dinars to finance an iron and steel project.

The loan, signed by Al-Kharafi for Kuwait and Industry Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab for Egypt, is repayable over 10 years with a 3.5 percent interest rate and a four-year grace period.

The Kuwaiti side to the talks included Al-Kharafi in addition to State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rashid, Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and Ambassador to Cairo 'Abd-al-Razak al-Qandari.

The Egyptian team grouped State Minister for Development and Administrative Affairs, Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, Dr Yusri Mustafa, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, Culture Minister Faruq Husni, Minister of International Cooperation Maurice Makramallah and Ambassador to Kuwait Sa'id Rif'at.

Cultural, Technical Accord Signed

LD2908184389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1642 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, Aug 29 (KUNA)—Kuwait and Egypt Tuesday signed an accord on cultural, technical and scientific exchange covering the next three years 1989-91, it was announced here today.

Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rashid signed for Kuwait while Egyptian cultural minister Faruq Husni signed for his country.

Following the signing ceremony, the Kuwaiti minister said in a statement that the agreement will enable Kuwait and Egypt to further improve fraternal ties, adding that the latest agreement is the renewal of a previous cultural, technical and scientific accord, concluded between the two sisterly states in 1965.

Delegations Hold Official Talks

NC2908210989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Official Egyptian-Kuwaiti talks were held at the Foreign Ministry this evening. Ambassador Sami Haybah, assistant foreign minister, led the Egyptian delegation to the talks. Majid Sulayman al-Shahin, Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry under secretary, chaired the Kuwaiti side.

During the 2-hour session, the two delegations reviewed Arab developments, the Middle East situation, and ways to coordinate the stands of the two countries at the next nonaligned summit. They also discussed ways to promote bilateral relations in various spheres.

Majid al-Shahin said they had made a full review of bilateral ties, the Arab situation, and the issues to be discussed at the nonaligned summit. He said that the

Egyptian delegation had clarified Egypt's position on these issues and remarked that the views of both countries were identical on the Arab and international issues which were discussed.

Ambassador Sami Haybah said that the Kuwaiti amir's visit to Egypt has special significance because it is his first visit to Egypt. He added that the amir of Kuwait and President Mubarak are playing an important role in African, Islamic, and Arab causes and noted that this role is bound to help resolve these causes.

Amir Departs Cairo 30 Aug

NC3008102089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, left Cairo Airport for Kuwait this morning at the end of a 3-day official visit to Egypt. He was seen off at Cairo Airport by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development; and a number of senior officials.

The two Arab leaders had held talks at the presidential palace in al-Qubbah this morning. Following an official farewell ceremony after the meeting, President Mubarak accompanied his great guest on a tour during which his highness inspected the underground Metro project where Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport and communications, briefed him on the project's advantages. At the end of the tour, Eng Mutawalli presented the emblem of the underground Metro project to the Kuwaiti amir.

Efforts To Avoid U.S.-PLO 'Confrontation'

JN2908163489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Egypt is currently making extensive efforts to avoid confrontation between the United States and the PLO at this delicate stage through which the Middle East peace process is going. The efforts are based on the need for the U.S. Administration to focus on the practical method of achieving peace and making just proposals following the positive Palestinian peace initiative. An official Egyptian source told AL-ITTIHAD that the Egyptians are trying to make the comprehensive peace the essence of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, without Washington being totally committed to the Israeli proposals, after it has been proved that these proposals do not promote free elections in the occupied Palestinian territories as link in the chain of a comprehensive peace process. The source said the United States is now required to find a practical formula associating the elections with an agreed upon fixed date for the start of negotiations leading to a comprehensive solution. This should be done before the UN General Assembly begins discussing the Palestine question next month. The PLO will go to the assembly to declare to the entire world that the international conference is the only way of achieving a comprehensive Middle East peace.

'Israeli Plan' To Attack Iraq Reported

JN2908155489 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Aug 89 pp 1, 6

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] According to diplomatic circles in Cairo, Israel is currently holding consultations with some U.S. Administration officials on the implementation of an Israeli plan to launch military action against Iraq and its vital facilities with a view to containing its military power.

The circles pointed to divisions within the Israeli Government concerning the timing of the expected Israeli aggression against Iraq. The circles explained that Israel's political leaders are strongly inclined toward postponing the implementation until after the Lebanese crisis has ended and world opinion, particularly U.S. public opinion, has been prepared to accept the Israeli attack.

With the help of some U.S. media organs, Tel Aviv has launched a hostile campaign against Iraq on the pretext that it was producing chemical weapons.

AL-WAFD has learned that Iraq raised the state of alert of its Armed Forces to the maximum level to confront the potential Israeli attack. Egypt has warned Israel against attacking Iraq, stressing that it would not sit back with folded arms in the event of any new Israeli adventure against Iraq. Last week, Israel claimed that Iraqi aircraft, using Jordanian airspace, photographed Israeli military facilities.

AL-WAFD has also learned that the Israeli Embassy in Cairo has recently presented a memorandum to the Foreign Ministry protesting the growing military cooperation between Egypt and both Iraq and Jordan, as the latter are enemies of Israel. The memorandum claimed that, by this cooperation, Cairo is violating the Camp David accords, signed between Egypt and Israel in 1978.

Mubarak Receives Letter From Senegalese President

NC3008083089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received (Mumbalasi), envoy of the Senegalese president and chairman of the Senegalese economic and social council, at the presidential palace in al-Qubbah this morning. The meeting was attended by Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

After the meeting, the Senegalese president's envoy said that he handed President Mubarak a letter from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. He said that he met with

President Husni Mubarak in his capacity as president of fraternal Egypt and OAU chairman. He also expressed pleasure at visiting Cairo. He said: President Mubarak is a friend of President Abdou Diouf.

Tanzanian Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC2708183089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1636 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 27 Aug (MENA)—Tanzanian Foreign Minister Benjamin Mkapa arrived in Cairo on a 3-day official visit this evening. He will attend a 3-day symposium on African debt which is scheduled to begin in Cairo tomorrow. EC, World Bank, and IMF representatives are participating in this meeting.

Ambassador Hasan Jad al-Haq, director of the Africa department at the Foreign Ministry, received the Tanzanian foreign minister at Cairo airport.

Libya

General People's Congress To Meet 1 Sep

LD3008090689 Tripoli JANA in English 0817 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Secretariat of the General People's Congress has passed a resolution calling for convening the General People's Congress for an emergency session on the great day of al-Fatih (1st Sept.) in the city of Tripoli in the people's hall at 8 a.m. sharp.

Nicaraguan Cooperation Minister Arrives 28 Aug

LD2808211989 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli 28 Aug (JANA)—Henry Ruiz Hernandez, member of the Nicaraguan Revolution Command Council [NRCC] and minister of foreign cooperation, and an accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening to participate in the Libyan Arab people's celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the great al-Fatih revolution.

Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi welcomed the Nicaraguan minister of foreign cooperation at the airport.

In a statement to JANA, the member of the NRCC expressed his happiness to participate in the Libyan Arab people's celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the great al-Fatih revolution.

He said that the al-Fatih anniversary is a great day in human history, and we come to participate in the celebrations commemorating it and to convey the greetings of the Nicaraguan people to the Libyan Arab people and to their wise revolutionary leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2908122589 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] In the Great Jamahiriyah, the revolutionary international leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the international revolution, has received Henry Ruiz Hernadez member of the Sandinista leadership, the Nicaraguan minister of foreign cooperation and minister of finance. [as heard]

Cuba's Castro Sends Anniversary Message

LD2608203189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1924 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Aug (JANA)—Cuban President Fidel Castro has emphasized that the great al-Fatih is a historical day, and that the great al-Fatih revolution and its leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, have made distinguished achievements during the past 20 years. During these years it managed to surmount all the dirty U.S. conspiracies and provocations, he said.

This came in a message sent to the brother leader of the revolution on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the great al-Fatih revolution.

Cuban President Fidel Castro also expressed his appreciation of the directions and principles of the great al-Fatih revolution and its leader toward the Nonaligned Movement. In another message he sent to the brother leader of the revolution concerning the agenda of the nonaligned summit, which will be held in Yugoslavia in the near future, he emphasized the identity of stances between the great Jamahiriyah and Cuba toward the forthcoming nonaligned summit. He pointed out that Cuba and the Great Jamahiriyah will work together inside the nonaligned states' movement, and during the latter's forthcoming meeting.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Addresses Rally in Al-Kabbashi

LD3008072389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Speech delivered by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, to a rally at al-Shaykh al-Kabbashi village on 27 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks to God, the only one. Prayers and peace be upon the last messenger and prophet. [passage omitted] Gentlemen, the sons of al-Shaykh al-Kabbashi, brother citizens from al-Kabbashi village, brother citizens of east Nile, peace be upon you. Thank you for this warm, crowded reception and your overflowing patriotic sentiments. Our meeting today, [word indistinct] in the

heart of the revolution and its solidarity with the masses—who have believed in the revolution and supported it.

We have experienced the practice of politics—during the corrupt era—and we have seen how certain major forces shifted from the camp of the nation to the camp of our enemies and how they shifted from being forces that compromised with the enemy to forces that besieged the resister and the fighter. We have seen the parties weak and trembling before the challenge of the great battle, yet they were fierce and strong against the sons of our people.

We have seen and followed the sale of posts, buying of conscience and trade in positions, and the receiving of the proceeds by politicians and deputies. These practices led to disappointment, hopelessness, and despair in the souls of the masses and in this hopeless state of affairs, with a corrupt and deteriorating political reality, the national salvation revolution erupted to heal the wounds of the homeland and to deliver it from tribalism and sectarian, factional politics before they led to further divisions and tribal conflicts.

The revolution came about to beat with the stick of salvation all the elements of surrender and disintegration, for which political sectarianism had provided a means and the fuel to spread. The revolution erupted to put an end to limited loyalties and to elevate loyalty to the level of the great homeland. The revolution came and found the country facing critical conditions of supply, a petroleum reserve sufficient for just 3 days, an agricultural sector facing near disaster with farmers refusing to sow cotton for the new season, and no fertilizers or fuel available for traditional agriculture.

The revolution immediately began to relieve the situation, with great success. We solved the farmers issue, their protest action ended and the country's main crop was saved. We managed to provide fertilizers and fuel and for the first time, thanks to God, diesel was made available at its official price for the farmers in all the productive areas, such as al-Gedaref, Northern Region, Blue Nile, Kordofan, Darfur, and the other production areas. We have received a number of cables of gratitude for saving the traditional and irrigated agricultural harvests.

We are now near to completing the preparations for the agricultural season. Contracts have been signed with the spraying companies who were refusing to operate this season because they had not been paid for previous seasons. Preparations are now going on for the harvest. As for sugar, contracts have been signed and supplies have arrived in the country to bridge the gap until the local factories can begin production in November. We have undertaken to control distribution channels and I promise God and you brothers, that not one bag of factory sugar shall escape to the black market. I assure you that every pound of produce will reach the citizens to compensate them for the deprivation and depression which they are experiencing at the moment. [passage omitted]

Brother citizens, thanks to the joint efforts of the Ministry of Education, the National Capital Commission and the governors of the regions, the school year began on time, books have been distributed from the 1st day, and classes have been conducted from the new time of 0700. [passage omitted]

Brother citizens, the revolution came about to save the Sudanese people from disease and the revolution is spending 30 million pounds on rehabilitating, developing, and supporting the general hospitals so that they can render specialized services to all Sudanese inside the country. [passage omitted]

In the name of the Armed Forces and in the name of the Sudanese people, for whose sake the revolution erupted, be assured that production is highly valued—we shall always strive to increase it and develop it—and the revolution will not allow anyone, under whatever cover or pretext, to misappropriate that production. Any hand that tries to sabotage it will be amputated without hesitation, no matter what the cost. Brother citizens, there is punishment for the old loyalties, but for all those who try to impose the loyalties of the past in the revolution era there is severe punishment. There shall be no return for the parties. Authority shall remain in the hands of the people and the Armed Forces.

Honorable brothers, on the matter of peace, the revolution—the national salvation revolution—has given it some of its [words indistinct] interest. It hastened to declare a cease-fire, unilaterally, for a period of 1 month, together with a general amnesty for anyone who had carried arms against the homeland. It then renewed it for another month as an expression of its good intentions and earnestness. It also clarified its (?vision) by entering into negotiations with the popular movement [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] on the basis of a balanced and realistic view.

Indeed, form the beginning it sought help from fraternal and friendly countries to speed up the earnest and urgent negotiations process in order to bring about peace in the country. The revolution succeeded in crowning its efforts by sitting with the rebel movement in Addis Ababa last week, conducting a useful dialogue on the issue under dispute and agreeing to continue the dialogue.

The next few days will witness extensive moves to draw up an integrated peace plan based on a recognition of the cultural and developmental disparities to offer definite proposals on a system of government. Participating in these preparations are numerous personalities of national stature who are experienced, objective, and representative, in national terms, as a prelude to the decisive determination of this issue at the next round of talks with the popular movement. This issue has sapped the strength of the Sudanese Armed Forces and Sudan's economy and manpower.

From this dais I would like to express thanks and appreciation to all the friends and brothers who have participated in the preparations for the brotherly dialogue. In particular, we thank [word indistinct] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak [applause], and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam [applause] for the efforts he made to make the talks successful. We shall continue our contacts with our brothers and friends and those countries concerned with events in Sudan until these efforts lead to the end of the war.

Today, I am pleased to announce that the revolution has resolved to extend the cease-fire period for a 3d month in support of the negotiations and to give new momentum to the march towards peace. [applause]

Honorable brothers, to reinforce the principles and slogans of the revolution, it will issue at the beginning of the month, the Law of Popular Committees for Salvation. The law will be comprehensive and will embody the solidarity of the revolution and the masses, in order to preserve political unity and to consolidate the internal front so that it may face the challenges.

This law shall offer great opportunities for popular participation, which will not be limited to services and the control of supplies. These committees shall have rights and specialities covering all occupations and socially active roles in our society. This law will place planning and control in the hands of the people and will establish the cabinet in a technical and coordinative role.

The law will also vest in the committees the authority to form committees of parents and teachers and committees of mosques and alms giving, to enable these committees to take care of the aged, the orphans, the widows and the disabled. [passage omitted]

Honorable brothers, we want to see a new Sudan loved by its people as they love their children. We want other people to know that we are a people with pride and a country that will always give birth to heroes and that we want to serve our country and defend it so that it can regain it power and pride. Peace be upon you and mercy from God and blessings.

Information Minister Shummu Interviewed

JN2908181489 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 28 Aug 89 p 5

[Interview with Information Minister 'Ali Shummu by Sa'idah Ramadan in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Ramadan] Why was the newspaper AL-WAFD banned from entering Sudan despite the common historic struggle between the Wafd Party and the Sudanese people? Was it because the newspaper called for the restoration of Sudanese political life, which was one of your pledges?

[Shummu] Sudan has its own experiences with parties. Its relations with brothers and friends have worsened and the governments have failed to provide the citizen with the necessities of livelihood; and this prompted us to launch our revolution. There is nothing in Sudan to make the assumption of authority so tempting, as this entails a cruel responsibility. The experience of Sudanese parties is different from that of Egyptian parties. The fact that we ban the activities of parties in Sudan does not mean that we are hostile toward parties in Egypt or other countries. We wish that parties would spare us their enmity, as each country has its own system and experiences. AL-WAFD waited only for 1 week to pass a judgment on us and on our revolution.

[Ramadan] News reports were circulated to the effect that differences surfaced between the Sudanese Government and the delegation of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] in Addis Ababa, as the SPLM announced that the first session of talks will be the last, while the Sudanese Government's delegation insisted that the talks must continue. How would you explain this?

[Shummu] I cannot tell you now about what is going on in Addis Ababa, as I am now with you in Cairo. I would make inaccurate remarks if I were to comment on the news reports which you have just cited, as I have never heard them. I know that the talks were continuing up to yesterday. Press statements are one thing and what actually takes place inside conference halls where negotiations are conducted is another. I believe that press statements will not help the parties to reach a solution.

[Ramadan] After the national salvation government announced the cancellation of the agreement signed by the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP], Garang made public his conditions for negotiations. Was the cancellation a manifestation of a preconceived opinion of the government voiced in anticipation of Garang's conditions?

[Shummu] We believe that bygones are bygones.

[Ramadan] Even if they contained positive aspects?

[Shummu] The positive aspects can be discussed during the talks. Why would the government set preconditions before the beginning of any negotiations at a time when the parties concerned would sit together to negotiate with each other? During these negotiations, previous agreements such as the Koka Dam agreement and the DUP agreement would be discussed. Setting preconditions does not help the attainment of a solution.

[Ramadan] The initial statements made by the salvation revolution affirmed that there is a substantial difference between its policies and those of the Garang movement. You refused to abolish the September laws, the abolition of which was a condition laid down by Garang for any negotiations. Do you not think this could cause a delay in the attainment of an agreement with the SPLM?

[Shummu] The transitional government was formed after the uprising failed to abolish the September laws. Besides, the governments formed by Al-Sadiq [al-Mahdi]

over a 4-year period also failed to abolish these laws. Why then do people want us to abolish them within 3 weeks? Let them give us time to continue our efforts as others did; and we will propose this issue for discussion during the negotiations.

[Ramadan] In a recorded statement made by the chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], he called for the separation of southern Sudan and said that this would serve as a prelude to resolving the problem. Is this the only solution proposed?

[Shummu] "Attributing words unsaid to interviewees" [quotation marks as published] is something with which we are familiar. The portion of the statement desired by certain parties was chosen and misrepresented.

[Ramadan] Does this mean that you are against the separation of southern Sudan?

[Shummu] The RCC has not discussed the issue of the separation of southern Sudan. We are convinced that any person who seeks a military solution to the southern Sudan problem is mentally retarded.

[Ramadan] No to the cancellation of the September laws, no to the separation of the south, and no to the military solution. What, in your opinion, is the solution then?

[Shummu] That we sit at the negotiating table and agree to a solution.

[Ramadan] It is reported that there are differences within the military council on the cancellation of the September laws, and we expect a corrective movement that will narrow the differences.

[Shummu] That is not true. They are rumors that are fabricated so that some people might benefit from them and achieve the results they want.

[Ramadan] Some political circles underscore the strong connection between the military council and the Islamic Front. What is your comment?

[Shummu] There are organized forces working against the salvation revolution. They try to depict it as part of the thinking led by the Islamic Front. This is wrong. If people ignore the revolution communiques and decisions, they will have to look at our foreign policy. They will ask themselves if relations between Sudan on the one hand and Egypt and the Arab countries on the other—as well as openness to the Gulf and distinguished relations with Baghdad—conform with the Islamic Front's ideas. There is confusion between the integrity characterizing the RCC members on the one hand and the Front on the other. Praying and fasting do not signify a creed. Does the Egyptian people's piety mean that they are all Muslim Brothers?

[Ramadan] You have explained the link between the military council and the May regime...

[Shummu, interrupting] Is it because I was a minister in the May government?

[Ramadan] And you disagreed with it.

[Shummu] I did not disagree with the May government, but worked with it until the April 1985 uprising. I stress that there is no connection between the military council and the May government. There is a complete independence and they have comments on, and assessment of all that has happened since independence. This experience is now before their eyes and they are not an extension of anyone but nationalist officers. It is unfair to pursue them after only a couple of weeks; let us give them a chance because that is Sudan's last chance. There is no alternative to the current situation in Sudan because Sudan cannot endure more upheavals or coups, and people should support what they have. Let them step in if they detect a drift toward any party.

[Ramadan] What is the future of political life in Sudan following the arrest of politicians, dissolution of trade unions, and suspension of newspapers?

[Shummu] Those who were arrested were leaders of the political parties and I believe that was logical because no revolution or coup would spare those who were ruling. I myself was arrested after the uprising and I said that that was normal. Investigation is now being conducted into corruption and transgressions. Those who are not convicted will be released.

[Ramadan] But you have arrested all those who called for the return of political life. Even the trade union leaders who submitted a petition calling for it were all arrested.

[Shummu] We arrested those who signed the petition because they distributed it as a secret leaflet to incite sedition. However, we began consultations with trade unions in order to draft a law allowing for the return of their activities.

[Ramadan] Your revolution came about against democracy. What is your concept of the ruling system?

[Shummu] We did not revolt against democracy as democracy. We revolted against the practices which took place in the name of democracy and which did not succeed in solving the problems of the country.

[Ramadan] Military regimes have not succeeded either. Do you have a new formulation?

[Shummu] We want the new formulation to be a result of an agreement with Sudanese society as a whole by negotiating with the unions, all sectors of the right and left, with some former politicans, workers, farmers, and national professional capitalists, to find a system to solve the problems of the country. It is not necessary that political parties be the basis of democratic rule.

[Ramadan] Will the new forces find their place on the new political map?

[Shummu] This is premature because the revolution does not have this new formulation even if the new forces are present as unions. However, their political role has not been defined for the future.

[Ramadan] Any revolution takes place for the sake of change. Your revolution added a new dimension which is salvation. Where do change and salvation figure when crises are escalating every day and when hope to solve the ethnic problems in Sudan has retreated?

[Shummu] Food supply crises cannot be solved in 2 months. This period is a part of the previous ruling system. The things achieved by the salvation revolution so far have been explained to the people. We have received petroleum from Libya and Saudi Arabia. We bought flour from the State Treasury. What is past and gone has nothing to do with us. We have come precisely for this purpose.

[Ramadan] Temporary solutions are useless in the case of Sudan. Policies are needed. Why have we not seen any proposals for these policies?

[Shummu] Definitely. There are policies that have been set.

[Ramadan] Was the dismissal of 250 officers from the police force done on ideological grounds?

[Shummu] That impression was given; however, had the people known the truth, they would have changed their opinion. I asked the interior minister to explain the facts to the people; however, he refused because he does not want to hurt the feelings of some individuals. The truth is that the purge list was not set by the salvation revolution. The revolution found it ready presented by a committee formed before the revolution.

[Ramadan] Does the dismissal of ranking leaders in the army along with the continuing curfew mean that you fear a counter revolution?

[Shummu] Dismissing some leaders specifically pertained to promotions. As for the curfew, it is part of the general system of control and will soon be amended based on the Security Committee's decisions.

[Ramadan] What is the situation of the independent newspapers after special government newspapers have been issued. Where is the press law?

[Shummu] The press law was presented a few days ago to the attorney general. Its formulation committee is now meeting. The law calls for preserving relations with fraternal and friendly countries; not attacking their presidents, not having racist and sectarian contacts, and being honest in reporting news and information. The law warns against being exposed to political sectarianism. Every newspaper has the right to criticize the authorities constructively.

BBC on Possibility of Renewed Hostilities

LB2908185189 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 29 Aug 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There appears to have been a resumption of hostilities in Sudan. The news of it comes just the day after the leader of the new Military Council, General Al-Bashir announced that he was extending the cease-fire till the end of next month to try to improve the climate for talks with the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] rebels. From Khartoum, (Alfred Taban) telexed this report.

[Announcer] Neither side has yet accused the other of restarting the war but it appears from the latest issue of the Army newspaper AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHA, that a serious incident took place earlier this month between (Kurmuk) and (Damazine) in Blue Nile Province. This weekend's edition of AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHA carries an obituary of an Army colonel, (Usman Dafa Abderrhamane), who it said was killed in an ambush while traveling on the (Kurmuk-Damazine) road on 22 August. The obituary did not say who had laid the ambush, but it is common knowledge here that the (Kurmuk-Damazine) road is not free of SPLA forces. Travellers from (Damazine) also said that it was not only Col (Abderrhamane) who was killed in the attack. 59 others also perished. Col (Abderrhamane) was the commander of the Army unit stationed at (Kurmuk).

Tax Revenues for 1988-1989 Exceed Projections

LE2908173789 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, 29 August—The total tax revenues for the past fiscal year, 1988-89, reached 922.5 million Sudanese pounds, while the expected figure for that year was 825 million Sudanese pounds, said the deputy under-secretary of the taxes chamber, 'Umar Ajib. Ajib attributed the increase to improvement of taxes administration and expansion of tax collecting. The expected tax revenues for the fiscal current year, 1989-90, is 1,450 million Sudanese pounds, Ajib added.

Tunisia

Iraqi Envoy Delivers Saddam Message to Ben Ali

JN2608203389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy has conveyed an oral message from the president to his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

The message was delivered by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim when the Tunisian president received him at the Carthage Presidential Palace today.

Jasim told INA correspondent in Tunis that the message included President Saddam Husayn's analysis of the developments in the Lebanese crisis and the impact they would have on the overall Arab situation if the Zionist, anti-Arab conspiracy currently being implemented in Lebanon succeeded.

Jasim added that President Ben Ali renewed his congratulations on Iraq's dazzling victory against Iranian aggression and conveyed his greetings to President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people.

More on Saddam Message

LD2608223689 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received a message from President Saddam Husayn. The message was conveyed to him by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, the [Iraqi] minister of culture and information and special envoy of the Iraqi president to the head of state.

The Iraqi envoy said that the message concerns the Arab situation, in particular the developments in Lebanon. He stressed the identity of views concerning the need for speedy Arab action to end the tragedy in Lebanon, and the intensification of Arab efforts for the sake of constructive Arab action to solve the predicament through Arab institutions. He stressed the Arab leaders' roles to this end.

Ben Ali Interviewed by Lebanese Magazine

LD2808125889 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Lebanese magazine AL-SAYYAD has published a comprehensive statement by President Zine El Ben Ali in which he assessed the achievements made since the 7 November 1987 change. He also reviewed current major domestic and international problems.

Concering the obstacles to the process of change in Tunisia, the head of state said: We were aware from the start that the process of change was not going to be without problems, due to the accumulated and multifaceted problems inherited from the previous regime. We have managed to overcome some obstacles by severing ties with the negative elements of the past in the political field, establishing national reconciliation, consolidating people's sovereignty, and firmly establishing the democratic option, in addition to paving the way for a suitable climate to bring about economic revival, encourage investment, and [words indistinct]. Among the most significant obstacles we had to face were harsh natural conditions; we have had severe drought over the past 2 years which caused [words indistinct], in addition to the repercussions of the world economic crisis on our economy. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question on granting license to a number of opposition parties, President Ben Ali said: By choosing the democratic path we have to appreciate fully that the Tunisian people have reached a degree of political awareness and maturity that qualifies them to enter individually—the phase of political pluralism, as long as that would not be contrary to the country's interests and maintenance of the nation's gains. He added that the proliferation of parties and [words indistinct] would not serve the interests of the country. This is because if something goes beyond a reasonable limit [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Concerning the Third World debt problem and the solutions put forward, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali said that Tunisia was determined to maintain its foreign debt within acceptable limits which conform to the requirements of a healthy balance of payments and continuing development efforts.

Regarding Tunisia's relations with France, the head of state said that improving relations with neighboring countries was a natural and logical matter, and only the (?opposite) should raise amazement or exclamation. Seven November's priority was to pay special attention to Tunisia's relations with all its neighbors, particularly those with whom we have ties of fraternity and tradition. [passage omitted]

Regarding the progress of the Arab Maghreb Union, President Ben Ali said that the union had been progressing naturally since the establishment of its institutions and structures, and that there were no obstacles—on the contrary, cooperation and integration had extended to transportation, communications, and health. He said that the intensification of bilateral cooperation would undoubtedly boost the progress of the union. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Commentary Assesses Amir's Visit to Egypt

JN2908142889 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 28 Aug 89 p 10

[Ahmad al-Jarallah commentary in the "Opinion" column: "Meaningful Visit"]

[Text] HH [His Highness] the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah will be in Cairo today. Indeed it is a big and important occasion from which various conclusions can be drawn. It is the meeting of attitudes, policies and designed to arrange patriotic and national interests.

Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, will be accorded a huge popular reception that confirms the passionate status that our amir enjoys with the Egyptian people, many of whom work in our country and thus establishes a circle of interests in Kuwait. We, on the other hand, are linked with a balanced cultural relations with the Egyptian people.

The meeting of attitudes, supported by the important place Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah occupies in Egypt, is in fact a new foundation for the Arab bilateral relations, which according to Kuwaiti and Egyptian leaderships, should be the example for what relations between Arab countries should be. For this reason, the visit of HH the amir to Egypt is attracting wide attention from the various Arab circles. Most importantly, it has overcome the state of imbalance in the Arab relations that prevailed in the past. It has succeeded in establishing new type of relations, not emanating from political investments which are based upon passions.

The new Kuwait-Egypt relations go deeper to link interests of the two brotherly peoples, thus providing it more strength to withstand future change of attitudes and problems.

The welcome he receives today in Egypt is an indication of the Egyptian thorough understanding of his personality, policies and his calculations in development and construction of countries. In addition, it is an indication that Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah's way of ruling and his dealing with the Arab and international issues, is attracting deep appreciation and high esteem from the Egyptian leadership. He is a man of principles and not a professional politician who has no heart. It is his principles that guide his policies and not the contrary. These principles also include the views on what the Arab relations should be and what realistic methods should be applied for principles not to remain words or simply good intentions without implementation.

By his frankness, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah has succeeded in making this way of dealing very understood, even though this frankness is sometimes painful. The man of principles cannot deal except with reality. With this high value that the personality of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah enjoys, he enters Cairo after a long absence. He enters with his principles and ideas to what the relations should be with Egypt and to what should be the practical outcome of his visit.

The man, guided by his special way of ruling and dealing and with his understanding, does not speak except practically. His thoughts are well understood. He believes in a balanced world between the big and small. He believes in an integrated and cooperating world. He applies this belief into working initiatives. He launched one of them in the United Nations by proposing a solution to the world difficult debts. He also believes in Arab bilateral relations based upon integration, linking interests, balanced economic performance, feasible investments and reasonable and guaranteed employments.

Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah is well aware of what great abilities Egypt has which can be invested in a perfect way in order to achieve economic integration. This only can save us all from the backwardness and from the restriction of the Third World that is suffering from debts and unable to meet its needs.

The amir is aware that Egypt is important to him as it is important to the regional development. He also knows that going to Egypt cannot be fruitful if it is made by individual adventures and personal attempts. So there is no alternative, but to undertake organisation at the highest level in relations to investments which are run by states. This alone will determine the channels of investment and its fields and will positively ensure that objectives set are successfully achieved.

The Egypt that receives Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah today by its political leadership and its masses understands all of the steps that Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah is planning for Egypt. It also expresses true feelings and understanding that it is receiving a leader of a state that is considered one of the main keys of the Arab Gulf area ideally suited for investment opportunities.

We shall not hasten at arriving at decisions which is the way the amir is thinking, because the visit will show the situation and give us a full result in detail for the horizons of the Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations that will cover the last decade of this century.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Gratified at Elections Discussions

EA2708174289 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, has expressed great gratification at the level of discussion by the masses of the people and their representatives—the members of the Supreme People's Council—which have enriched the draft law on people's council elections.

In a statement he made to AL-THAWRI newspaper, organ of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee which it published in today's issue, brother Al-'Attas affirmed that the draft law, which would be presented to the next extraordinary session in its final form, would constitute a historic step in the course of the democratic process and would deepen and expand it through the development of the electoral mechanism in practice, which constituted the real basis of democratic development.

On the draft document on comprehensive political and economic reform, he explained that the council would discuss the document in the course of general discussions that are currently being held throughout society with the aim of enriching and developing the orientation of the document. The reform draft will constitute a work program for the next stage in the expansion of the masses' participation in managing the affairs of government and society and will reinforce the march forward of Democratic Yemen and the democratic nationalist regime.

People's Council Meets; Discusses Elections Law

EA2908103589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] The Supreme People's Council held an extraordinary session on Monday, 28 August, corresponding to 26th Muharram 1410 Hijriyah. The session was chaired by Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Politburo and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council. The recommendations contained in decision No 179/9 which the council adopted at its ninth regular session were studied. The purpose of the meeting was to review the draft of the People's Councils election law and the document on comprehensive political and economic reform.

Qatar

Heir Apparent To Lead Nonaligned Delegation

JN2608180989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Doha, 26 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, has sent a written message to SFRY President Janez Drnovsek in reply to a message his highness has recently received from the latter containing an invitation extended to his highness to attend the expanded conference of the leaders of the Nonaligned Movement scheduled to be held in Prague at the beginning of next month.

QNA said that his highness the Qatari amir affirmed in his message the importance of the role of the Nonaligned Movement which has become the biggest political movement in the history of mankind, as this movement has played a positive and major role, since its inception 28 years ago to, in bringing about the changes which have taken place in the international arena—the changes which are viewed as significant accomplishments on the road to correcting the international order on both the political and economic levels. [passage omitted]

The agency further said that his highness the amir of Qatar informed the SFRY president that His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, will stand in for his highness the amir in heading the Qatari delegation to this summit due to be held during the period 4-7 September.

Saudi Arabia

'Arafat Leaves Jeddah After Meeting King Fahd

JN2908171689 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, head of the PLO Executive Committee, and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, left Jeddah this morning after a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during which he met with King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

LD2908204889 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1504 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Jeddah-Islamabad, 29 Aug (SPA)—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived in Jeddah this afternoon on a visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President Shaykh Zayid Urges 'Rescue' of Lebanon

PM2908130989 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 25 Aug 89 pp 22-23

[Report on interview with President Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan by Milhim Karam in Al-'Ayn; date not given]

[Text] United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid placed every international responsibility in its place and defined matters and solutions: no falseness or diplomatic talk—only deep understanding of world problems. He devoted a great part of his interview to the Lebanese problem. He spoke of an urgent call for an Arab summit whose agenda includes one topic—Lebanon. Half an hour after he said that, the palace's information representative had come to inform him that Kuwait had proposed a call for a summit, so he expressed unlimited satisfaction, then spoke of Lebanon with a love that we rarely hear of. We felt his bitterness and pain, as he shares the Lebanese people's suffering.

Shaykh Zayid sees the summit being held unanimously, with no one opposed to entrusting the Arab armies—especially the troops of Egypt, Algiers, Morocco, and others—with guaranteeing security in Lebanon.

Shaykh Zayid also announced his confidence that no one will avoid the summit or refrain from complete frankness, since salvation requires frankness, especially in the light of the tripartite committee's statement.

Shaykh Zayid said: Whatever the sacrifices, we will not allow Lebanon to collapse, since its collapse means the Arabs' and the league's collapse. Nor will we allow the precedent of allowing an Arab homeland to be fragmented while its brothers are watching without any purposeful or direct intervention, otherwise that would become a rule to be applied to all the Arab states, indifference would prevail, and the prestige—indeed the significance—of the Arab League would disappear. Today we all are Lebanon, and we are all concerned about its rescue, sovereignty, and safety. What is required is to be committed to rescuing a fraternal state experiencing a continuing hemorrhage which has reached the point of destroying it. Therefore we should not, and will not, allow that Lebanon be left to face its destiny alone. And those who have ideas different from that logic are deluding themselves. Lebanon's end, God forbid, would mean the end of other Arab states. And if the rosary bead snaps, then we will discover, too late, that we were victims of an international conspiracy designed to weaken the Arabs and wipe them off the world map.

UAE President Shaykh Zayid adds: This is why strong security conditions must be secured—conditions under which the deputy to be elected president of the Republic is not subjected to any pressure or terror, and under which citizens feel assured, protected, and safe. This is because ambitions in Lebanon must be abandoned forever, and we will not accept that they continue, whatever the consequences. This is the idea I formed after consultations with the Arab brothers who consider it improper that the Arab should not put an end to the Lebanese predicament, regardless of any considerations. This is because rescuing Lebanon means rescuing Arab sovereignty, whose failure is directly responsible for the fragmentation, separatism, and ruin from which it is suffering.

The UAE president sees no sectarian problem in Lebanon, believing that what has happened cannot affect the strength of coexistence between Muslim and Christian citizens. And playing that tune to justify certain attitudes and stances deceives no one. Lebanon is a world of love, brotherhood, evolution, and civilization which we must preserve, because it preserves many sublime Arab values. Its loss would abort high qualities characteristic of the Arabs. It is an oasis of ideal coexistence that annoys many, which is why they are working to destroy it.

And when Lebanon's freedom—whose continuation we care about—is exercised within a legal framework, says Shaykh Zayid, we will be able to challenge the world with it. We must intervene to stop the bloodshed, restore accord, and strengthen the institutions before foreigners intervene. We are the brothers pained by what is befalling Lebanon—not those who proceed from profit and loss considerations repudiated by Arab logic, which seeks nothing but Lebanon's safety and unified, complete sovereignty. And there is no excuse for anyone to limit or reduce the efforts required to speed up the restoration of Lebanon's health and noble identity, which the Arabs must strengthen in order to achieve the desired solutions. This is because elegant words have failed and the time of meaningless talk has gone forever. The Arabs must resolve their own problem, not wait for an initiative from others, even though some initiatives may have sincere humanitarian motives.

Shaykh Zayid added: Therefore the Arabs must sit as brothers at the negotiating table to talk openly and call things by their proper names, in order to prevent Lebanon's collapse—otherwise there will be a possibility of every Arab state's becoming another Lebanon. That fraternal homeland's safety is an organic Arab responsibility which we will shoulder in full. This is the underlying reason for the Arab League's establishment. And anyone who has read the tripartite committee will have discovered many things. What would be the reason for destroying Lebanon?

Concluding his interview, Shaykh Zayid emphasized: Anyone who believes that we would allow Lebanon's elimination is stupid. None of the Arab leaders will hesitate to shoulder, or try to evade, the abiding responsibility or adopt an unconcerned position. All are determined to take open and strong positions. The important thing is for those adopting a stand to have a satisfied conscience and be happy about their views. So we condemn the present escalation in Lebanon, because it is in the interests of none of the factions. In fact it is in the interests of Israel, which seeks to seize Arab land. If one part of the body is infected by a disease, the disease spreads throughout the body.

He also said that the greater Arab body is like a fortress that has foundations and pillars. So what would remain if that fortress lost a basic structural unit? It would collapse completely. It is our duty as Arabs, proceeding from our care for the Arab nation's destiny, to build, not destroy.

So we must adhere strongly and cling stubbornly to Lebanon's survival, so that it will remain Arab and strong, and then embark on the political reform over

which views are now close. Then the dawn of reconciliation will emerge to deepen national unity and brotherly coexistence, which is everyone's objective.

And we will do whatever we are destined to do in order to rescue Lebanon. That must be known to everyone. For decades the Arabs have been trying with all their strength, and exerting their efforts, to rid an Arab homeland of foreign hegemony and oppression. And that homeland is the state of Palestine. Having once lost Palestine, are we expected to give up another state: Lebanon? Shaykh Zayid wondered: Do we expect to recover the state of Palestine now, after decades of suffering, when we are unable to rescue a fraternal and sovereign state? Are we to leave it exposed to the fire?

Shaykh Zayid addressed his brother Arab leaders: I would like the brother Arab leaders to confront the threats surrounding us in the correct way, because we have a common destiny. So we must must rise up as one man to rescue Lebanon. We as an Arab nation must rescue our brothers and people in Lebanon from the bloodshed and destruction from which they are suffering, recover every usurped right in Palestine, and not show any laxity in the face of the fragmentation of a sovereign state like Lebanon, so that it will not become ruins, leaving nothing but memory. That fraternal country will recover its health, and that depends on us. And we will not hesitate in doing whatever that task dictates that we must do. We are ready for all probabilities and risks.

This is some of what Shaykh Zayid said over 3 and ½ hours.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Receives Message From Iraq's Saddam

JN2608181289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Sanaa, 26 Aug (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's envoy and deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has conveyed a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic.

This came when the Yemeni president received the president's envoy today. The message deals with the ongoing consultations between the two brotherly countries on the current developments in the Arab arena, especially the developments in the Lebanese arena which pose a threat to the pan-Arab security.

Iraq's 'Aziz Makes Statement

JN2608194489 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Tariq 'Aziz, His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn's envoy, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister, left Sanaa today following a brief visit to the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR].

In a predeparture statement, Tariq 'Aziz said that during his meeting with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, an in-depth and thorough review of the Lebanese situation was conducted. He added that his talks with Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, dealt with the coordination of stands between the two fraternal states within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council.

'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad 29 Aug, Meets 'Aziz

JN2908192489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received this evening Mr Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. They discussed the latest developments on the Arab scene and the intifadah [uprising] of the Palestinian Arab people against Zionist occupation. The audience was attended by the head of the Arab desk at the Foreign Ministry and the ambassador of the state of Palestine in Baghdad. 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad this afternoon.

French Monthly Interviews 'Aziz on Iran, Lebanon

LD2908140389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1235 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Paris, Aug 29 (KUNA)—Iraq is prepared to sign a peace treaty with Iran, but the latter is dragging its feet and waiting for conditions which would enable it to resume its war with Iraq, according to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

In an interview appearing in the September edition of the monthly magazine "ARABIES", the Iraqi official said: "If (Iran's President) Hashemi-Rafsanjani decided one day to set up a real, global and permanent peace, we would be the first to applaud and fully cooperate with him to achieve that aim."

'Aziz insisted on the fact that peace with Iran, leading to stability in the region, should be guaranteed by the United Nations "so that any future resumption of hostilities be considered as an attack on international will and not a just [as received] "incomprehensible" conflict between two neighbouring countries."

Talking about Lebanon, the Iraqi official noted that Lebanon was facing destruction and that was a "threat for Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, and as a matter of fact for all Arab countries where different communities co-exist."

He expressed his belief that Arab countries ought to send forces to Lebanon to help the Lebanese start dialogue among themselves.

Then would come the meeting of the parliament and the election of a president, he added.

On Franco-Iraqi relation, 'Aziz observed that they were "in general stable" and were meant to develop further.

But he pointed out that there were now some "technical" problems between French and Iraqi economic organisations.

Some of the divergences, he went on, have been settled, but not those on the interest rate to be paid on amounts we owe France.

According to him, some circles in France were taking advantage of the financial disputes to undermine relations between Baghdad and Paris.

"It is unimaginable that Iraq let its relations with France be threatened when it has taken years to build them up in a climate of mutual confidence," he said, adding that Iraq would do everything to settle all the outstanding problems in order to preserve these relations.

Editorial Urges Arab Solution in Lebanon

JN2608103289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH published an editorial here today written by its political editor under the headline: "After the Tripartite Committee Announced Reasons Behind the Dead End It Reached... The Available Options... No Solution Except the Arab Solution."

Following is the text of the editorial:

After the tripartite committeee distributed its detailed report to the Arab countries and informed the Security Council's five permanent member states about the report, the current pressing question is: What is the next move?

The committee has said that it reached a dead end, explaining that the obstacle that blocked its mission, delegated by the Casablanca summit, is what it called in diplomatic jargon "the difference between its view of the Syrian presence in Lebanon and that of the Syrian regime." Those who read between the lines of the diplomatic language know that this means the Syrian regime refused to schedule the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon despite the fact that the committee showed remarkable forbearance toward such a schedule and that its proposals also reflected remarkable tolerance toward the slogans that Damascus rulers and their Lebanese partisans used to raise to justify the continuation of the occupation of Lebanon by Hafiz al-Asad's forces—we mean the slogans of "political reforms."

The facts concluded by the committee emphasized what we have always said; namely, that the main problem of the Lebanese situation is the occupation imposed on Lebanon by the Syrian regime.

Now that the committee has announced its report, the situation is at a crossroads, represented by the following possibilities:

—International handling of the problem, or the so-called international solution.
—The continuation of divisions imposed on Lebanon and the continuation of murder and destruction. This would mean the three sides of the Zionist-anti-Arab alliance—Israel, and the Damascus and Tehran regimes—will continue to implement their scheme of dividing Lebanon. Such a step is designed to damage the unity of the region's states, with the grave threat to the pan-Arab security this would entail.

The Arab Solution

The Arab nation—masses and governments—must refuse to stand by as spectators concerning the second possibility. Such a position would not only be shameful to every Arab, whether citizen or official, but also an evasion of a responsibility that Arab citizens and officials ought to take. For, what is going on in Lebanon endangers all the Arabs and their basic cause: Palestine. Being mere spectators of what is happening in Lebanon will threaten the security of each Arab country and overall pan-Arab security. Those who think this way should know that if they are one day subjected to what Lebanon and its people are now going through, the Arab position toward them will be the same as that of the Arabs toward Lebanon. This position will ultimately take shape, whether bad, which we do not wish, or good, as all sincere people wish. In reality, all the Arabs are alike; no one is better than the other.

What remains is the international handling of the situation, or the international solution. Growing international concern about the situation in Lebanon is undoubtedly a positive thing. Lebanon and the Arab world are part of this world, and what happens in the Arab homeland should meet the concern of the world. When an institution like the Security Council concerns itself with the Lebanese situation, then this is good. Indeed, it is in line with our concept as Arabs of international legitimacy and relations. The concern of the Security Council, its permanent member states, and world opinion about the Lebanese situation is particularly necessary to press Israel into withdrawing from the territories it is occupying in Lebanon and implementing Security Council Resolution 425. This concern is also useful in putting pressure on the aggressive Syrian regime, its wicked ally—the Tehran regime—and their henchmen who are sabotaging and corrupting Lebanon.

But we have to think seriously about what the international solution may lead to in the absence of the Arab solution.

The Security Council has called for a cease-fire in Lebanon. Whether this call is respected or not—and so far it has not been—the direct effect is to perpetuate the existing divisions, which the parties to the three-way alliance—Israel and the rulers of Damascus and Tehran—want, pending better circumstances for them to proceed with the conspiracy of dividing Lebanon in the near or distant future.

International forces, including the Security Council and the UN secretary general, cannot provide a solution to Lebanon's internal problems, especially since the parties to the conspiracy are using these same problems as a pretext for maintaining divisions in Lebanon. The UN secretary general, the United States, France, or others can not bring the Lebanese to the negotiating table to reach national reconciliation, as some are now calling for. This question cannot be solved except by the Arabs themselves, on the basis of the pan-Arab link between the Lebanese and Lebanon as an Arab country, and the Arab nation, and with guarantees that the Arabs themselves make to all Lebanese parties.

The call for a Cambodian-style international conference grouping the Lebanese will, under the current circumstances, definitely entrench the divisions in Lebanon, especially if it is accomplished with the continued presence of Hafiz al-Asad's occupation forces, which control the will of many Lebanese parties and prevent them, through blackmail and intimidation, from expressing themselves freely. Past experience confirms this fact, and so does the killing of Muslim and Christian Lebanese leaders who have "whispered" views opposing what the occupier Damascus ruler imposes on them.

In reality, therefore, there is no solution, in the true sense of this word, except the Arab solution. The Arab solution is the only solution; others are nonsolutions. Either the destruction and divisions imposed by the parties to the conspiracy continue, or the division is entrenched by an international cover. Both threaten Lebanon and pan-Arab security.

What are the constituent parts of the Arab solution?

The first step is to call the Arab summit into session. We believe that the tripartite committee should extend the invitation for the convening of the summit; this is its responsibility. The committee has tried and reached a dead end. It stated unequivocal conclusions as to why it reached a dead end. Therefore, it makes no sense whatsoever to call on the committee to resume its activities before the convening of the summit; this would be exactly like what the Jews said to Moses, peace be upon him: "Go, you, and your Lord, and fight you two, while we sit here (and watch)." [Koranic verse] We should not ignore the fact that some of those who repeat this call do so not from motives of appreciation and confidence in the tripartite committee as much as from the desire to abandon their own responsibility and place it upon the shoulders of the committee. We think that the committee, after its generous efforts, can do nothing now but carry the question forward to the Arab summit.

If the committee resumes its efforts before Hafiz al-Asad abandons his conspiratorial role and declares readiness to leave Lebanon and comply with the Arab will of respecting the full sovereignty of Lebanon, it might be dragged to positions which cannot serve the Lebanese cause—something that neither the committee nor we as Arabs hope for. The Arab summit is the framework of the solution—the Arab solution, which has no alternative solution—which has no alternative. As in medicine, as in [words indistinct] and gravest atmosphere of terrorism in the country.

The ethical duty and historical responsibility of the Arab countries toward Lebanon and toward themselves make it imperative for them to call upon the Syrian regime, through an unequivocal summit resolution, to leave

Lebanon unconditionally. If the committee had made some concessions to this wicked regime [words indistinct].

The Arab countries must seriously consider securing the necessary requirements for helping the legitimate Lebanese authority extend its sovereignty over the entire Lebanese territory and maintain it, and ensure that the departure of Syrian troops from Lebanon will create the correct atmosphere for the Lebanese to hold a genuine national dialogue toward national reconciliation on an objective basis.

We are also sure that security in Lebanon will be much better than it is now under the occupation forces of Hafiz al-Asad. Some are exaggerating the dangers of a lack of security in the event the Syrian forces pull out, but the party that makes these exaggerations is known—it is the occupier itself, who wants to impose a state of fear on the Lebanese and the Arabs so that it can be left to do its mischievous acts in Lebanon. Those who advance this argument know that destruction in Lebanon has only increased and security in the country has deteriorated year after year as the occupation of Hafiz al-Asad's forces went on. These forces are responsibe for the killings, looting, and destruction that have overwhelmed Lebanon over the past years. If there are other gangs in Lebanon commiting such crimes, these gangs have grown up in the bosom of Hafiz al-Asad's intelligence services. But in the final analysis, these gangs are too small to constitute an obstacle in the way of the will for a normal life in Lebanon.

When the Lebanese people regain their freedom, they will have an effective role in imposing their will for security, stability, and national unity, on these gangs.

Thus, the first step in the Arab solution—which is the only solution—is the adoption of a crystal clear resolution calling for the unconditional withdrawal of Hafiz al-Asad's forces from Lebanon, without privileges or rewards. Occupation and crime cannot be rewarded. As we handle this problem, we should not forget that the Zionist occupiers demand privileges, rewards, and guarantees when people talk about the need for their withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab terrritories, including Syrian territory—the Golan.

An unequivocal Arab summit resolution on the withdrawal of the Syrian regime's occupation forces from Lebanon will strengthen the hopes of all the Lebanese in the Arab association. It will give the Lebanese, of all sects and schools of thought moral strength and added legitimacy toward solidarity and struggle against the occupier, and resistance to his will, stemming from moral and practical Arab support.

If, on the other hand, the nation abandons its responsibility and refrains from facing the occupier, which is within its ranks, then how can it face the Zionist occupier? And how can any Arab country face others when it is subjected to aggression or encroachment?

Standing on the sidelines with regard to events in Lebanon, and the reluctance to face the Syrian regime in a clear and principled way, signify a lack of balance, principles, and commitments in Arab relations; that is, the absence of a pan-Arab security order. If this happens—God forbid—those who will take the brunt of the harm are those who just watch and flatter Hafiz al-Asad.

Scowcroft Reportedly Ties Visa to Peace Process

TA2908172589 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Aug 89 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] The decision to give PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat a visa to the United States will depend upon the peace process and the anticipated effect on the process—whether positive or negative—of the decision. This was reported to Jerusalem following a meeting between Brent Scowcroft, President Bush's national security adviser, and Jewish leaders.

It appears from Scowcroft's remarks that the decision will not be made, as Jerusalem had hoped, according to legal considerations based on 'Arafat's responsibility for terrorist activities. The remarks were made to leaders of the Anti-Defamation League, which has been using its influence on the administration and Congress to prevent 'Arafat from receiving a visa.

The Jewish organizations are trying to convince these elements that they should demand 'Arafat's overt support for the election initiative as a condition for receiving a visa. Scowcroft told the delegation, led by Director Abe Foxman, that they should not expect a U.S. announcement that the dialogue with the PLO, which is a new development, will be halted. He made it clear that the administration has no intention of pressuring the PLO, or offering it incentives. In his opinion, one should not expect a breakthrough in the Middle East peace initiative in the near future.

Israeli experts recently analyzed the resolutions adopted by the Fatah congress in Tunis. They decided that one of the leading features of the congress was the wide-ranging support for Yasir 'Arafat's policy, and the fact that the makeup of the elected institutions will make it easier for him to maneuver in the future. These evaluations do not conform with the declarations of the top political level in Israel, which has claimed since the Fatah congress that the outcome was the limiting of 'Arafat's room for maneuver, and his yielding to the extremists in the organization. [passage omitted]

Official IDF Team Forced To Leave Colombia

TA3008052789 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Aug 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by special correspondent in Bogota Ran Dagoni]

[Excerpt] A team of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers who were on an official mission in Colombia training cadets at the Colombian military academy have recently stopped their work without prior notice. They left Colombia after canceling a big farewell party that had been planned for them.

Reliable Colombian sources have told MA'ARIV that the sudden departure of the Israeli officers was caused by annoyance on the part of the Colombian Army, which does not hold a favorable view of the Israeli involvement—even the unofficial one—in organizations that may be connected with the drug cartel. It has been learned that the Israelis were coerced into leaving. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Denies Team's Presence

TA3008053889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] There have been no IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers in Colombia and there are none there presently, says the IDF spokesman. The denial comes in the wake of an item in this morning's MA'ARIV, according to which IDF officers, who were training Colombian Army cadets, were forced to leave that country. As already stated, the IDF spokesman categorically denies the presence of IDF officers in Colombia.

Foreign Ministry Against Ties With Colombia

TA3008072389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has stated that at present, it does not intend to issue reactions regarding the Colombia affair, which is being investigated by the police. The statement was made in response to a query by our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen.

It was further stated that the Foreign Ministry's opinion of the private activities of Israelis in Colombia was brought to the attention of the concerned parties more than once in the past 2 years.

Our correspondent notes that the Foreign Ministry has recommended that the government, including the Defense Ministry, abstain from granting permits to Israeli bodies and individuals to form ties with nongovernmental elements in Colombia. The Foreign Ministry further advised against forming ties with the Colombian Government because of the weakness of that country's central administration.

Minister on 'Very Close' Relations

TA2908184689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Interview with Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal by Hayim Hecht during a tour of the Jordan valley on 29 Aug—recorded]

[Excerpt] Before addressing the issue of Colombia, Minister Shahal pointed out: I do not know about any cartels in Colombia, nor did I meet any cattle breeders [reference to the profession claimed by the men trained by Israeli military consultant Ya'ir Klein] during my visits there.

[Begin recording] [Shahal] We have an excellent relationship with Colombia in several very concrete spheres. These include the purchase of coal, for which we signed a 4-year contract during my visit there about a year ago.

That contract has been fulfilled to the satisfaction of both sides. The Colombian coal is excellent, as is the price we pay for it. We are a very good customer, and the relations between us are very close. [end recording]

By the way, the trade agreement between the two countries was formulated by the lady in the news, Monica de Greiff, who was the Energy Ministry director general during Minister Shahal's visit to Colombia. At present she is Bogota's justice minister, and is hiding in the United States from the drug cartel's assassination threats.

Minister Shahal stressed that in his meetings with the administration heads in Colombia, the latter had lavished praise on the assistance extended by our defense sector to Colombia.

[Begin recording] [Shahal] It is absolutely true. Israel trained Colombian defense establishment elements; this was done in the customary way and with the approval of the defense minister. Colombia bought security products from Israel, such as the Kfir planes, which were the other side of the coal purchase. On the day I met with the Colombian president he signed an order approving the purchase of the Kfir planes by the Colombian Air Force. A day later we signed the coal agreement. The total value of the deal was about $200 to $250 million for each side. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rabin: Investigation Following Procedures

TA300814268 9 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin does not believe any Western country has a system of controls over exports of weapons and defensive tactics comparable to Israel. According to him, it is important to note the statements made by the Colombian Army commander and justice minister to the effect that they have no proof that Israelis have been training groups connected with the drug cartel.

Minister Rabin pointed out that 2 years ago the Hod Hahanit company applied for permission to work in Colombia, but its request was rejected. About 4 months ago the defense establishment sent a written warning to the company concerning its involvement in Colombia. Hod Hahanit replied that it had not deviated from what is permitted by law, and that in any event it intended to terminate its activities. What took place after that date will be investigated by Israel according to the procedures for such cases, Rabin noted.

Referring to the political process, the defense minister said there is no doubt the peace initiative has lost its momentum. This situation has led to a worsening of violence in the territories. But, the defense minister emphasized, Israel will react forcefully to any manifestation of violence, and will make it abundantly clear that violence will accomplish nothing, and will only harm the inhabitants of the territories.

Minister Rabin made these remarks to our correspondent Rina Matzliah at the end of a tour of Nabulus. He was accompanied by Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Central Command, and Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Civil Administration. The defense minister toured the military government offices and talked to soldiers serving in the area. He said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has scored successes in its war against the hard core, namely, the members of the extreme terrorist organizations in the territories.

PLO Said Rejected by World Tourism Body

TA2908195989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] The World Tourism Organization's congress rejected the PLO's request to join the organization under the name Palestine.

Pinhas Eli'av, Israel's ambassador to the UN organizations in Geneva, said the organization's request to give the PLO state observer status was also turned down. The requests were rejected in a secret ballot: 40 countries rejected the motion, 34 supported it, and 6 abstained.

Pinhas Eli'av pointed out that Hungary was surprisingly active in lobbying for the rejection, and for holding a secret ballot. He said the Hungarian representatives were more daring than West European states.

Peres Cited on U.S. Effort To Create Dialogue

TA3008104889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says that so far the Palestinians have not given a final answer to the election plan in the territories. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that in a meeting with Canadian Parliament members, Minister Peres said that at first, Palestinians uttered a barely audible yes, but that now they are saying an almost absolute no.

According to him, Israel prefers maintaining contacts with an elected Palestinian representation to ties with a violent organization elected at random.

Minister Peres added, however, that reaching a decision will naturally be difficult for residents of the territories as long as their lives are threatened. For this reason, stressed Minister Peres, Israel appreciates the U.S. efforts to lift the threat and create a dialogue.

IDF Expanding Permanent 'Territory Companies'

TA3008110889 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Aug 89 pp 11, 2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Excerpts] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has decided to expand the number of special companies whose soldiers will spend most of their military service in the

territories. The prevailing view within the IDF is that these companies have been successful in fulfilling their mission.

The meaning of this decision is that the IDF is setting up a large and serious force designed mainly to quell the intifadah [uprising] in the territories.

Territory companies are made up of soldiers who operate in the territories for 9 months each year and spend the remaining 3 months in professional armored infantry training. They were formed to ease the burden of other regular army units and create the framework of a permanent and experienced force which would know how to handle problems unique to the territories. [passage omitted]

A new territory company was put together recently. This company will be deployed in Judaea and Samaria, and will apparently belong to the Engineering Corps. Its soldiers will serve 9 months of the year in the territories, with 3 months being dedicated to Engineering Corps exercises. It seems, however, that this ratio will be altered in the wake of soldiers' and commanders' complaints about a high level of mental exhaustion and burnout in the territories. The units will spend "only" 8 months in the territories, with 4 months being used for operational training.

The decision to expand the territory companies will come at the expense of the Border Police. Four companies have been added to the Border Police since the beginning of the uprising, and two more are of being established. After they are completed, the Border Police will not be permitted to form any new companies, and any enlargement of the IDF's permanent nucleus in the territories will be made up of regular soldiers serving in units similar to the armored infantry company in this report.

Security Council Urged To Stop 'Carnage'

TA2908145789 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 28 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Take Immediate Action To End the Conflict"]

[Text] There is a noticable increase in the numbers of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories over the past fortnight. Most of the dead were young, either children or teenagers.

Can this sudden escalation in army killings be the new policy of the defense minister? It could very well be. Some even say that Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin brought the infamous Yitzhaq Mordekhay, former commander of the Southern Region (which includes the Gaza Strip) to the Central Region (which includes the West Bank) mainly to implement a more brutal policy to crush the almost 22-month old intifadah [uprising]. Mordekhay was known for his brutality in dealing with the intifadah in the Gaza Strip. The assumption was that since Israel was unable to crush the intifadah in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it will try to crush it first in the weaker link, the West Bank, then concentrate all efforts on the Gaza Strip.

Killing young Palestinians has been a daily occurrence since the beginning of the intifadah. It drew strong Israeli and international reaction and put Israel in many embarrassing situations. But as Israel was able to combat media coverage of Israeli army actions against the intifadah and as world attention was being directed away from the occupied territories, Israel increased the carnage. The army is now shooting and killing Palestinians in cold blood and in the most brutal ways.

All this is taking place without any international reaction or protest of any kind from any world government. On the contrary, rather than condemn Israel for its recent actions, the United States Government is busy reprimanding the PLO for just talking about escalating armed struggle to free Palestine and give Palestinians a haven in which to live peacefully and securely.

The situation is no less serious in the occupied territories today than it was during the first months of the intifadah, when world reaction and media attention were extensive. Israel was held responsible for its actions then and was forced to explain every measure it took in fighting the intifadah. It was also put in the corner in many instances and pushed to make concessions to defuse the volatile situation here. Because of constant world pressure, Israel was forced to soften its intransigent position and agree to discuss the possibility of a peaceful settlement to address the rights of the Palestinian people.

Now, the situation is changing for the worse. Rather than keep pressure on Israel to yield on a settlement, world governments have eased their pressure, if not stopped it completely. This is why Israel is finding an easy time in increasing its killing of Palestinians. It will probably continue this policy as long as the world is not showing enough interest in protecting the defenseless Palestinians under Israeli occupation and finding a final and just settlement for their troubles.

Now is the right time for members of the United Nations Security Council to convene a special session to discuss and take action on a settlement for the Palestinian question. The council should take immediate action to stop the carnage in the occupied territories before more blood gets shed and before extremism becomes the norm.

If the Security Council is unable to take action on such a vital matter because certain powerful members, such as the United States, oppose placing any pressures on Israel, then the UN General Assembly should be called on to give an ultimatum on this issue. Just as the General Assembly created the Palestinian question in 1947, it should now resolve it. This should be a priority issue on the General Assembly's agenda.

Uprising Said 'Too Much' for Palestinians

TA2908115789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Aug 89 p 13

[Commentary by Ori Nir: "The Fruit Ripens Slowly"]

[Text] There is a certain paradox in the way the authorities have been dealing with the intifadah [uprising] in the territories: As their fight becomes more effective and more damaging to the leadership, the manifestations of violence of the uprising turn more vicious and brutal.

This phenomenon definitely has serious short-term implications, but the defense establishment believes that in the long run it may lead to the end of the uprising and, consequently, to a more realistic, compromising, and independent political approach on the part of the Palestinian public in the territories.

Over the past few months the authorities have apprehended many educated members of the local leadership that constituted the initial infrastructure of the "popular committees" in various locations. In the wake of the relative success scored by the authorities in the arrest and neutralization of prominent public activists—the henchmen of the clandestine Unified National Command of the Uprising—the active leadership went deeper into the underground. This created the phenomenon of "wanted men:" young activists who escaped arrest and conduct their affairs from their hiding places and who cover their faces due to their fear of informants. As far back as the beginning of last winter, the security forces launched a large-scale operation against the "wanted men" and caught dozens of them.

Administrative detainees being released from jail were issued green identity cards banning them passage into Israel and actually turning them into "marked" men—that is, people identified as potential troublemakers in any encounter with Israeli soldiers or security personnel. These cards gave the authorities more meticulous control over those being released from detention and over the neutralization—partially, at least—of many of them.

The arrests resulted in two by-products: A growing sense of suspicion and an increase in attacks on locals known as collaborators. The large number of administrative detainees—who are implicated on the basis of secret evidence—and the accuracy of the authorities in identifying activists provoked the residents to attack the local collaborators whom they suspected of turning them in.

Another by-product was the change in the make-up of the active cadres. Relatively educated youngsters organized in disciplined frameworks who submitted to the authority of the clandestine central leadership have now been replaced by young men with less national and public awareness. The new cadres are more extreme and less disciplined and docile. Their violent activities are of a spontaneous and capricious nature. The sweeping arrests severed many channels of communication between the central leadership, both inside and outside the territories, and active elements in the field; the leadership suddenly had a hard time imposing discipline and slowly began losing control.

Apparently this change also affected the Unified National Command of the Uprising. Palestinian observers cite the nature of the instructions included in the command's latest leaflets as evidence to this effect. Two instructions included in leaflets Nos 43 and 44 were interpreted by many as asking too much of the people: One was the call on students to not attend school on general strike days, which evoked a very mild response and was considered unfair by the vast majority of the population. Another was the call on laborers in the West Bank to not report to work in Israel for a week as a gesture of solidarity with the workers from the Gaza Strip who were forced to apply for the new magnetic pass cards in order to cross into Israel. This call received hardly any response at all.

Local activists tried to coerce the population into heeding these instructions, thus deepening the population's distrust in the local leadership, and their reservations about the modus operandi of the popular committees. This is very rightly seen by the top level of the defense establishment as the key to breaking the spirit of unity among the inhabitants of the territories.

The architects of the intifadah recognized from the start that they would have the support and participation of the population, both active and passive, as long as they instilled the feeling that the suffering involved was not totally unreasonable, and that it was yielding real fruit; namely, making progress toward liberation from the yoke of occupation.

Slowly but surely the population has begun to realize two unsettling truths: The fruit is ripening slowly, if at all, and the suffering that the leadership of the uprising is demanding from them in order to help it ripen does not always fall within the limits of reason. The leadership is not behaving as wisely and sagely as it did in the earlier stages of the intifadah.

A senior defense official described the recent process with the he of a shaving metaphor: The authorities have managed to shave the stubble of the leadership from the face of the Palestinian public in the territories. The razor is sharp, and the shaving quite efficiently keeps pace with the growth of stubble. As is known, however, the more one shaves the heavier the beard becomes.

Hence, the hope of the defense establishment is that as violence i the territories increases—resulting from, among other things, the change in the nature of the local leadership—the alienation between the intifadah activists and the population at large will increase to the breaking point. What is specifically hoped is that there will be a willingness on the part of moderate elements to turn their backs on the leadership, and begin on the pragmatic road of compromise with the Israeli Government, according to the latter's rules of the game.

'Hard-Core' Activists Impose 'Reign of Terror'

TA300810389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Aug 89 p 12

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] Bet El—West Bank Palestinians are living under a "reign of terror and fear" imposed by their fellow Arabs, according to a senior military officer who gave an assessment of the situation in the area yesterday.

Many of the "disturbing facts" do not come to the media's attention, he said.

The officer, who spoke at a classified briefing, mentioned murders, arson attacks and intimidation, but gave no details.

The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] concern about the climate of fear is so great that the head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria, Tat-Aluf [Brigadier General] Shay Erez, tried to conceal a visit by Health Minister Ya'aqov Tzur to Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj yesterday afternoon. [passage omitted]

The deterioration in the situation comes as Palestinians are increasingly disappointed with the gains made under the intifadah [uprising], according to the high-level assessment. Some Palestinians are reportedly looking for scapegoats, and a military source yesteray spoke of a "settling of accounts."

He indicated it was not clear how much authority the Palestinian national leadership wielded.

The IDF commander who spoke at the closed briefing said that the local popular committees were fairly independent of that leadership. In some cases the local committees received their orders only through leaflets, and they had no contact with the leadership.

The officer estimated that as many as 140,000 West bank residents might be categorized as "hard core" and involved in violent activities.

He said the residents' frustration has been heightened by a considerable deterioration in their standard of living. The shrinking economy in the West Bank is forcing more people to seek work in Israel, and the officer estimated that in the past two years the number of West Bank residents working across the Green Line had increased by 20,000. [passage omitted]

IDF Arms Ya'bad Arabs for 'Self-Defense'

TA290815789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Inhabitants of the village of Ya'bad in Samaria complain that an armed militia has been instilling fear in the local population, while the army does nothing about it. Armed men openly walk around the village under the auspices of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers stationed there. The armed men say they are using the weapons only for self-defense, because the strike committees attacked them due to their links with Israel. Our correspondent Gil Sadan was in Ya'bad and reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] Ya'bad, which has been active in the intifadah [uprising], was under the total control of Fatah and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The Civil Administration has now located its offices in the center of the village. The armed local collaborators have appeared as a unique answer to the masked men, a sort of little Lebanon in the heart of Samaria, with the IDF in the middle—just like the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Is the Ya'bad case something local, or an example of the development of armed Arab militias under IDF auspices? So far, as long as the struggle for control of Ya'bad has not been decided, the real ruler is fear. [end recording]

The IDF spokesman said tonight that in view of the threats to the lives of inhabitants in the village of Ya'bad, the IDF gave permission to several inhabitants to carry arms for self-defense. All activity going on there is being monitored by the defense establishment.

Gazan Shot Dead in Falastin Square Riot

TA290815489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A resident of Gaza, Isma'il Abu-Zayyad, was shot dead in the course of riots in Falastin Square. Locals have said that after news of his death spread, numerous Gazans began rioting. Seven rioters were wounded by soldiers' gunfire. Our correspondent Moti Amir notes that Isma'il Abu-Zayyad was the head of shabiba at the Islamic College of Gaza, and had been detained several times in the past.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown this afternoon at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] observation post. No one was hurt and there was no damage.

A 22-year-old man from Bat Yam has been detained on suspicion of selling weapons to a terrorist gang from Yafo. The gang members—eight Yafo Arabs—were detained last week and charged with carrying out terrorist activities in Tel Aviv area. The Bat Yam youth is cooperating with the police.

A resident of the territories, who tried to sell meat in an illegal fashion in Haifa, tried to run over a municipality veterinarian who attempted to stop the meat sale. The veterinarian fired his gun at the tires of the Arab's car, puncturing them, but the assailant managed to escape.

Two Bedouin boys, both about 14 years old, have been detained and charged with throwing stones at Israeli cars on the Shefar'am-Nazareth road today. The windshield of one of the cars was shattered, but no one was hurt.

Further on Riot

TA2908173989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Excepts] It now appears that during today's riots in the Gaza Strip one inhabitant was killed, rather than two as earlier reported. The man, Isma'il Abu-Zayyad of Dayr al-Balah, was killed by army gunfire when soldiers broke up a riot in Falastin Square in Gaza. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that six others were wounded in the riot.

Security forces demolished two houses, and sealed up five others belonging to suspects of hostile terrorist activities and wanted list members. In the afternoon, four houses were sealed, one in Tulkarm, one in 'Ayn 'Arik in the Ramallah area, and two in the village of Irtah near Tulkarm. Earlier the security forces demolished two houses—one in the village of 'Askar near Nabulus, and one in the township of Bayt Sahur—and sealed a house in the village of 'Askar. [passage omitted]

Studies in 10th and 11th grades in Judaea and Samaria will be resumed tomorrow after a long closure, the Civil Administration decided.

2 Soldiers Wounded, Arab Worker Shot in Gaza

TA3008125089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] An Israeli Army soldier was moderately wounded when struck by a stone in Khan Yunus. He was evacuated to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. Another soldier who was also struck by a stone in the same incident was treated on the spot and returned to his unit.

Our correspondent in the south 'Ezra Yanuv adds that a resident of Gaza employed by the Civil Administration was severely wounded by pistol shots fired by an unidentified person on Gaza's main street, not far from the municipality building. At the time of the shooting, the man was sitting in a vehicle, next to the driver. The driver was not hurt. The wounded man was transferred to Tel Hashomer Hospital. The security forces are looking for the assailant.

W. Bank 10th, 11th Grades Reopen; Curfew Update

TA3008074489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Studies were resumed in the 10th and 11th grades in West Bank schools this morning. A large number of students reported for classes, and no irregular developments have been recorded so far.

The curfew in the township of Bayt Sahur near Bethlehem was lifted last night. The curfews in Tulkarm, the adjacent refugee camp, and the village of Irtah remain in force.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio at 0630 GMT on 30 August adds that "a curfew was imposed this morning on Dayr al-Balah, where a local resident was killed in yesterday's disturbances. The departure of workers for jobs in Israel continues to be sporadic this morning. The general strike in the Gaza Strip is expected to be in force until tomorrow."]

Jordanian-Egyptian Views on Lebanon 'Identical'

JN2808103489 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Aug 89 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Tragic Situation in Lebanon Must End"]

[Text] On the basis of firm traditions and strong brotherly ties, and in an atmosphere of mutual trust, His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt and his meeting with his brother His Excellency President Husni Mubarak have come to bolster bilateral relations and deepen Jordanian-Egyptian coordination on various pan-Arab issues.

Perhaps the news conference held by His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Husni Mubarak at the end the visit is the best reflection of the atmosphere of mutual trust and amity between the two great Arab leaders. It manifests the deep understanding and coordination between our fraternal countries on the various issues of concern to the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

It was established that the viewpoints between the two fraternal countries on the Lebanese issue was identical. The two Arab leaders reiterated their conviction of the need to end the status quo in Lebanon because of the tragic situation reached by the crisis, and the heavy bloodshed resulting from fanaticism, narrow mindedness, and extreme selfishness.

Thus, His Majesty King Husayn has affirmed the need to end the tragic situation in Lebanon in accordance with the charter submitted by the higher tripartite Arab committee which is known as the charter of reform and accord, and with the spirit of the resolutions of the emergency Casablanca summit, which was held to tackle the Lebanese crisis.

Like its Arab brothers, Jordan does not see any alternative to the continuation of the tripartite committee's mission in Lebanon, especially since this committee has already discussed all aspects of the situation, contacted all parties to this sanguinary conflict, and presented its own concept of the solution, which was supported by the Arab states, the UN Security Council, the two superpowers, and all capitals concerned with finding a solution to the longstanding bitter crisis in Lebanon.

Paper Warns Iran Against Intervention in Lebanon

JN2008110689 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Aug 89 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "A Year After Cease-Fire Between Iraq and Iran"]

[Text] A year ago today, the actual implementation of the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, which is still in effect, began, after the Iraqi Army realized a decisive victory which consolidated the Iranian regime's conviction that the continuation of war would result in further disasters for Iran.

What causes pride is that at the peak of victory, fraternal Iraq was the first to extend the hand of honorable peace to Iran. Iraq has reaffirmed time and again that the cease-fire cannot be a substitute for true peace between the two neighbors. Iraq has also frequently stated that it is completely willing to consider all possibilities.

Now that a year has passed since the cease-fire began, it behooves the Tehran rulers to opt for comprehensive peace with Iraq especially since the lessons that were learned from the 8-year long war have reaffirmed that there is no way to export their domination abroad.

Likewise, it would have been better for the Tehran rulers to understand that rebuilding the war-torn Iranian economy cannot be achieved within the context of a mere cease-fire, and that genuine peace with Iraq must be consolidated in order to spare their peoples the burdens and sufferings which they caused through their war with Iraq.

On the other hand, it would be better for the Tehran rulers to recall the fact that intervention in the Lebanese arena does not show evidence of good intentions, and that Lebanon will not replace Iraq as [Iran's] gateway to the region. It would be better for the Iranian regime to abandon any diversions that would undermine confidence in its intentions, and restrict consolidating its efforts within Iran's borders rather than beyond them.

While the Arab nation recalls the Iraqi Army's glorious victory which led to the cease-fire, it will never forget the dear sacrifices offered in defense of Iraq and the eastern gateway, as well as the Arab depth.

Jordan is proud to have had the honor of standing alongside Iraq throughout the 8-year war in defense of all the Arabs and the Arab order. It voices firm determination to continue to support fraternal Iraq in its battle for peace. This is because just and honorable peace was and still is a noble Arab objective which deserves to receive all the concerted efforts, and which must be accompanied by further consciousness, alertness, and ability to confront the challenges.

Editorial Views Husayn's Efforts for Arab Causes

JN2808091389 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Aug 89 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Husayn-Mubarak Meeting Signifies Continued Efforts to Serve Arab Causes"]

[Text] The meeting yesterday between the two Arab leaders, Husayn and Mubarak, is part of His Majesty King Husayn's contacts to tackle current Arab issues and to exchange viewpoints on the efforts which are being exerted to find a peaceful solution to the Palestine

question, guaranteeing the achievement of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights, especially their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national Palestinian soil under the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

His majesty the king is also concerned about finding a solution to the Lebanese problem through the resolutions of the Casablanca summit and the efforts of the higher Arab tripartite committee stemming from that summit.

It is most certain that the two leaders also exchanged viewpoints on the best means to achieve the objectives of the Arab Cooperation Council and deepen the bonds of fraternity and cooperation among the four member states for the sake of their peoples' prosperity.

Thus, King Husayn's visit and summit, which grouped him with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Baghdad, the meeting later in Amman between 'Arafat and his majesty the king in Amman, the Syrian foreign minister's visit to the Jordanian capital and his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn and the prime minister, as well as his majesty's visit to the Egyptian capital and his meeting with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak are all links in the chain of efforts by his majesty to find logical, realistic, and acceptable outlets from the crises sweeping the Arab world, especially the Palestine question with all its ramifications, and the Lebanese problem, which requires a quick solution through Arab efforts but which is still stumbling despite the Casablanca summit resolutions and the formation of the Arab higher tripartite committee to achieve a cease-fire and find a solution acceptable to all the Lebanese sides, restoring Lebanon's unity and sovereignty.

Thus, although our leader's continuous efforts on the Arab level may not be achieving quick results, what the king is doing in the Arab arena is not wasted. The day will come when wisdom will prevail over ignorance, right over might, and good over evil: The will of the Arab is bound to triumph in the end.

Withdrawal of Foreign Forces From Lebanon Urged

JN2008102089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Stop Beating About the Bush"]

[Text] Enough is enough; it is time the veil is torn off and the realities of Lebanon are exposed simply because the only realistic move towards peace in the beleaguered country and security for its miserable people lies in calling a spade a spade and adopting concrete, sure-footed action, above all political and "strategic" considerations. For starters, it is clear that any revived move by the tripartite Arab League panel on Lebanon is not going to get anywhere because of stonewalling by at least one of the principal actors in the Lebanese arena. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Arab World to accept the inevitability of international involvement in the issue. The proper forum to implement such international action is the U.N. Security Council, for, the Lebanese problem has grown to such proportions that none of the parties involved appears to be willing to listen to the voice of reason and accept that the situation is taut with dangers that could threaten whatever semblance of security and stability remains in the region after allowing for the perpetual Arab-Israeli conflict.

The first step towards putting a firm end to such dangers should be the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, including the Israelis in south Lebanon, the Iranians in the al-Biqa' valley and the Syrians elsewhere. It should be the first and foremost priority of the international community's will and might as represented in the powers vested in the Security Council. It should be made clear to every party concerned that its military presence, in whatever form, large or small, is contributing to tension and adds new dangerous dimensions to the Lebanese problem and therefore, as friends say, there is nothing personal in demanding that no foreign force, Arab or non-Arab, remains in Lebanon.

One can easily see the Israelis turning the other way and playing deaf when it comes to withdrawal from Lebanon and an end to its occupation of its so-called security zone in the south. But, let the Israelis prove their sincerity (if one could call it that when they "sympathise" with the "poor Lebanese who are slaughtered like sheep") by accepting that their withdrawal from south Lebanon will be the forerunner of similar steps by others and thus will contribute to restoring security and stability and law and order in Lebanon, which will also mean restraints on cross-border attacks. By the same token, one can also see a similar Syrian and Iranian withdrawal from Lebanon as calling Israel's bluff based on the Zionist state's insistence that as long as Syrians remain in Lebanon the Israelis will also do likewise.

Let us, for the moment, freeze the question of reforms in Lebanon's system. Of course, without such reforms there cannot be peace in the country. But, to insist on reform under foreign military control is simply foolhardy since the root cause—traditional hostilities and old wounds—will remain unaddressed when any solution is forcibly imposed on people. For once, leave the Lebanese alone to tackle their problems among themselves after making sure that no outside force tries any sleight of hand among them. Only the international community, with guidance from the Arab League on traditional Arab thinking and ways of politics, can perform that task. Anyone who says "no" cannot possibly have Arab or, for that matter, Lebanese interests in mind.

Paper Views Coordination With Palestinians

JN2308101689 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 23 Aug 89 p 1

[Editorial: "The Road To Victory"]

[Text] The Israeli stand, which opposes any peaceful settlement to the Arab-Zionist conflict, is not only hostile to the Palestinian people and their rights, but to the entire Arab nation and its hopes. U.S. support for the Israeli stand is not merely a practical expression of a special relationship which links the United States to the Zionist entity, but has become a practical translation of a constant U.S. stand toward the legitimate hopes of our Arab nation.

Indeed, the Palestinian peace plan, which is also an Arab peace plan, as President Yasir 'Arafat indicated in his news conference yesterday, is still met with Israeli-U.S. rejection. Ever since the peace plan was adopted by the Casablanca summit and supported by the international community, the Israeli side has continued to voice its rejection of the plan and to put obstacles in its way. However, the United States has not undertaken any move, as a major power, to shoulder its responsibilities toward establishing peace and justice in the Middle East, and recognizing the national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to repatriation, self-determination, and to set up their independent state on their national soil.

Despite all this, President Yasir 'Arafat has reaffirmed that the PLO will continue its peace efforts and dialogue with the United States, although these efforts are still deadlocked due to Israeli intransigence.

Here lies the importance of continued coordination between Jordan and the PLO. Indeed, the Jordanian decision to sever administrative and legal links with the West Bank provoked the Israeli entity's anger and it attempted to use this decision to achieve false objectives. However, it has failed. Jordanians and Palestinians are aware of the dangers of what is being concocted against them. Thus, they have deepened their dialogue on the basis that the unity linking the two peoples is what foiled many chapters of the Zionist conspiracy, and that while further coordination and joint action has been achieved, there is still more to be achieved.

Jordanian-Palestinian unity is our common destiny against any harm and danger. It is also essential for steadfastness and confrontation. Within the context of this unity, the road will remain closed before the enemies. Political and nonpolitical victories will be realized. This is because Jordan's steadfastness in the face of all pressure and its ability to surmount all barriers has provided the Palestinian struggle with many pillars to step up resistance, particularly concerning this brave intifadah [uprising] of the Palestinian people on their occupied national soil.

'Vehemence' of U.S. Anti-PLO Campaign Viewed

JN3008071489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Why the Hostile Campaign?"]

[Text] Opposition to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) bid to secure membership in the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) comes as nothing new. It was expected from day one and it does not matter at this point in time whether or not the PLO, inter alia, the state of Palestine, gains entry to the agency. But, what strikes the international community as strange is the vehemence with which the U.S. Administration is purusing its campaign to abort the PLO effort. It is one thing when Washington takes a stand and makes it known that it opposes PLO entry to U.N. agencies but it is a totally different issue when it launches an all-out campaign against the PLO's efforts. Well, that's what the State Department deputy spokesman revealed when he admitted that the Bush administration was "consulting with like-minded friends on how best to block these PLO efforts, which we will continue to oppose vigorously."

And what grounds does he offer to justify the American position? "The self-declared state of Palestine, which we do not recognise, does not meet the generally accepted criteria under international law for statehood and thus does not qualify for membership in international organisations." Well, this argument, perhaps, is well taken if we allow for the fact that the physical boundaries of the state of Palestine have not yet been defined. Isn't it about all that the PLO has not done?

But, what seems hard to digest is what the American spokesman added: "Nor do we believe that bestowing legitimacy upon the self-proclaimed quote state unquote would advance efforts to promote peace in the Middle East."

May we ask a couple of very simple questions: When a group of independence-seeking immigrants decided in the 18th century that it was time they ended centuries of colonial rule and declared what is today the United States of America, what were the boundaries of that quote state unquote? How many other countries extended "legitimacy" to that "state?" Was or was not that quote state unquote proclaimed under foreign occupation at a time the concepts of independence, self-determination, freedom, dignity, liberty and all that goes with them were not exactly the parameters that guided international politics? If anything, one would expect these parameters, which are so strong today as the avowed fundamentals that govern the policies of many countries, to be the determining factors in the decision-making process of a country, which itself has lived through the agony of having to fight tooth and nail for "legitimacy." Even if one was to suppress any thinking along these lines, when seen in light of the peculiarities of the American-Israeli-Palestinian question, isn't [it] ironic that the U.S. is waging an open war against a

liberation movement, which has made its peace intentions loud and clear to the international community?

Cabinet Approves Supply Law, Bilateral Accords

JN3008075289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Amman—During its meeting last night under Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir, the Council of Ministers approved a bill amending the Supply Law. The amendment defines several measures insuring tight control on the sale of foodstuffs and imposing stringent penalties on violators of foodstuffs prices fixed by the Supply Ministry.

The Council also approved the minutes of the first session of the Jordanian-Soviet Joint Committee for Cooperation in the Economic, Scientific, and Technical Fields which was held in Moscow on 8 August. It also approved the executive program for cultural and educational cooperation between Jordan and the Yemen Arab Republic for the years 1989-1991. The program is intended to develop and bolster mutual cooperation in the fields of education, higher education, social affairs, health, energy, sports, and youth.

Al-Nabulsi: No Mediation With Al-Jalabi Planned

JN3008061589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Aug 89 p 1

[By Qhadir al-Tahir JORDAN TIMES staff writer]

[Text] Amman—The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Monday categorically dismissed as "untrue" a British radio report that the government was considering mediation aimed at reaching a compromise deal with "fugitive" banker Ahmad al-Jalabi, who has fled the country leaving behind a complicated web of financial transactions involving Petra Bank which he headed.

"No, there is no truth to it whatsoever," CBJ Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi told the JORDAN TIMES in a telephone interview Tuesday. "There is no mediation effort."

The report, carried by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Arabic service, had said that a former member of the board of directors of Petra Bank was offering to "mediate" between the government and Al-Jalabi, whose present whereabouts are unknown.

'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, a major shareholder of Petra Bank who was removed from the board after the government ordered the merger of Petra Bank with the Jordan Gulf Bank in the first week of this month, was not immediately available for comment.

The report had quoted Al-Kabariti as contending that Al-Jalabi's cooperation was essential to determining the bank's assets, liabilities and involvement in various non-banking activities, said to include controlling interest in at least 36 companies in Jordan. He was also quoted as in the reported interview that the livelihood of nearly 3,000 people employed by these companies, and their families were threatened by a possible credit cancellation.

The companies are believed to have been bought by Al-Jalabi but the shares were registered under different names thus making it more difficult to reveal the bank's actual ownership of these firms.

"If we cannot bring people (Al-Jalabi's alleged front men or women) to give up their shares (in these companies to Petra Bank), it would be an impossible situation," he was quoted as saying.

However, Al-Nabulsi and a member of the caretaker management of Petra Bank rejected that Al-Jalabi's cooperation was important in sorting out Petra Bank's dealings and advance the merger process, ordered by the Economic Security Committee under martial law provisions. "There is no problem of implementation of the merger," said Al-Nabulsi. "Whether (Al-Jalabi) is here or not, it doesn't make any difference."

"When we appointed him to the supervisory committee (the caretaker management pending the merger) we took into consideration that he could be helpful, but he didn't have any intention to help the bank," said the Central Bank governor. "He fled the country illegally."

Jawad al-'Anani, a member of the supervisory committee said he had heard nothing of the alleged mediation. "I have not heard anything about it," he told the JORDAN TIMES. "In any case, we are more concerned with securing more information on the bank's affairs, whether it comes from Al-Jalabi or anyone else."

The committee has already made major headway into collecting information and disentangling the Petra Bank puzzle, Al-'Anani said. "It will be good if the man who used to run the bank is here, but it is not crucial," he said.

Iraqi-born Al-Jalabi went "missing" shortly after the merger order. He denied later that he left illegally.

The Economic Security Committee said last week that it had removed Al-Jalabi from the supervisory committee. It was the first statement released by the government on the affair after the banker left the country. It said the decision was taken as a result of the banker's "departure (from the country) through illegitimate means" and that he could be prosecuted if investigations found that he violated any law.

Al-Nabulsi reaffirmed Tuesday that Al-Jalabi faced possible prosecution. "We are trying to find out if any wrongdoings occurred," he said. "When the facts are known and if evidence of wrongdoing is found, we will prosecute him wherever he is," he said.

The governor said auditors had already started scrutinising the books of accounts of Petra Bank in Amman as

well as a branch it owns with 70 percent controlling interest in Washington, D.C. "We have taken over the management of Petra Bank in Washington," Al-Nabulsi said. "Deputy CBJ Governor Michael Marto is now in charge of the management of Petra Bank, Washington, D.C.."

Meanwhile, informed sources said Petra Bank's Visa cards were no longer being honoured outside Jordan since Monday. According to the source, the suspension went into effect Monday pending a new agreement between Visa Card International and Petra Bank.

Ministry To Raise Hotel Rates by 50 Percent

JN2808073589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Aug 89 p 3

[By Nirmin Murad, staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Prices of hotel rooms in Jordan will register a 45 to 50 per cent increase as part of a comprehensive tourism policy aimed at encouraging local tourism among Jordanians and guaranteeing better hotel services and maintenance vis-a-vis the changing economic situation in the Kingdom.

According to Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat, who is expected to approve the price-hike recommendation soon, the new prices reflect "a more realistic price range in view of the growing needs of hotel maintenance, services and the current economic situation in the Kingdom."

The new prices for Jordanians will range between JD (Jordanian Dinars] 35 a night for single room at a five star hotel to JD 5 a night at a one star hotel.

These prices only cover occupancy and do not include the 10 per cent government tax on hotel bills.

For foreign tourism however, Hikmat noted that the new prices will be quoted in American dollars and will range from $100 a night for a single room at a five star hotel to $12 at a one star hotel, although, payment can be made in Jordanian dinars according to the official rate of exchange on the first day of occupancy.

Hikmat told the JORDAN TIMES that the decision not to charge foreigners in dollars "is part of a comprehensive government economic policy."

Hikmat added that he personally does not "approve of the dollarisation of our economy because I am proud of my currency and aim to continue supporting it."

Prices fixed for Jordanian citizens, according to the minister, take into account "the financial realities of the average Jordanian family as well our hope to encourage Jordanians to know their country better and become acquainted with its touristic sites," he said.

Hikmat stressed that these special prices for Jordanians will only be given to the "key holder" and that this service will not be extended to visitors who have Jordanians make reservations for them.

The minister pointed out that although increase of over 45 per cent in hotel rates may seem overrated "it is in accordance with the average tourism prices in countries in the area and in many cases cheaper."

Hikmat said this price increase allows the hotels to maintain their hotel buildings and pay their workers, especially in view of the changes on the value of the Jordanian dinar during the last year.

"This price increase fits in with the formula of all these changes and needs, and blends in with the tourism market in the area," the minister said.

The immediate result of this price hike, according to Hikmat, will be an evident improvement in the services of hotels. "We expect much better services and there will be continuous supervision by the ministry to ensure that all occupants are satisfied and do not have any complaints."

"We aim to safeguard the tourist and the local visitor as a consumer," Hikmat said.

According to Hikmat, the ministry hopes to guarantee Jordanian citizens rooms at hotels during official holidays by cooperating with travel agencies, and called on the management of hotels in the Kingdom to cooperate with the ministry and tour operators "to facilitate internal tourism to historic sites in the Kingdom and guarantee rooms for citizens in hotels."

"We consider local tourism the right of every Jordanian citizen and we feel that it is as important as Arab and international tourism and we will continue to treat its that way," Hikmat said.

France's Scheer Discusses Solutions With Leaders

Comments on 'Awn Meeting

NC2908151189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1134 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] French envoy Francois Scheer met with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn in Beirut today. He emphasized a desire to give more priority to the political solution than the military solution. Scheer said he heard this in the Syrian capital and that Gen 'Awn also said this to him. He said: Achieving a cease-fire as soon as possible is the priority as far as France is concerned. What remains is to define the mechanism for achieving this.

Scheer explained that France has ideas but not a plan of action and that he discussed these ideas with the officials he met to hear their stand. He added: It is early to talk about stands that have been taken, and he declined to comment on the results of his discussions, saying he will include these results in a report to French President Francois Mitterrand.

The French Foreign Ministry secretary general added that he will visit the capitals of the tripartite committee's states to encourage them to revive their interest in Lebanon.

The meeting between Scheer and Gen 'Awn was held in B'abda Palace. It was attended by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Faruq Abu-al-Lam', French Ambassador Rene Ala, and the assistant head of the Middle East and North African desk at the French Foreign Ministry.

Scheer then left for West Beirut where he has been meeting with former Prime Minister dr Salim al-Huss since 1600. He will meet with former Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni at 1700 and will confer with Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri in the evening.

Meets W. Beirut Leaders

NC2908180589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] French Foreign Ministry Secretary General Francois Scheer today met with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, and the head of the Middle East desk at the French Foreign Ministry to explain the French stand on the Lebanese developments. Scheer had earlier met with General Michel 'Awn and emphasized that a political solution is the shortest way to settle the Lebanese crisis. He concentrated on the role of the Arab Good Offices Committee in expediting inter-Lebanese reconciliation.

In West Beirut, Speaker al-Husayni, Prime Minister al-Huss, and Minister Nabih Birri stressed to the French diplomat that the core of the crisis is the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon and that implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 is the key to the solution to the Lebanese crisis. They also emphasized that reforms are the political criterion of the Lebanese crisis.

Birri Cited on Meeting

NC3008072589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text]After his meeting with Minister Nabih Birri yesterday, French envoy Francois Scheer described his contacts with Lebanese leaders as useful, adding that he will resume making contacts today.

For his part, Minister Birri said: We have received clarifications and assurances that the French policy in Lebanon will benefit all Lebanese and will not discriminate among sides. To a question about supervising the cease-fire and monitoring coasts and ports, Minister Birri said: The French envoy explained his views as well as those with whom he met, but we did not reach an agreement.

To another question about the movement of the French fleet, Minister Birri said: The fleet is far from the Lebanese coast, and they affirmed that the fleet's presence is not directed against the Lebanese. Therefore, the issue is closed.

PFLP, Hizballah Condemn 'Foreign Intervention'

LD2808175889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] The revolutionary Hizballah movement of Lebanon and the Palestine Salvation Front, in their joint session yesterday at the base of the council of the revolutionary Hizballah movement in the southern district of Beirut, issued a statement declaring the following: France's aim in interfering in Lebanon's internal affairs is to back Michal 'Awn and his followers in the ruinous war against the Islamic and national forces of Palestine and Lebanon. This statement also announces that in the face of existing dangers in the Lebanese arena, all Islamic and national forces should close their ranks tighter in order to confront foreign interventions. At the end of this statement, emphasis was placed on the need to strengthen relations between the Islamic and national forces of Lebanon and Palestine, with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria.

Junblatt Warns Against French Intervention

NC3008135489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt has once again warned against French military intervention. In an interview published today in the French Magazine LA CROIX, Junblatt said: I believe that there is a danger of French military intervention in Lebanon. The French move gave Michel 'Awn an opportunity to

receive weapons and ammunition from France. Junblatt said that he has information indicating that 'Awn has received shells and antitank weapons.

Junblatt said that a cease-fire in Lebanon would be meaningless unless it was linked with Michel 'Awn's removal and the withdrawal of the French fleet. Junblatt asked: Who is going to monitor the weapons embargo, the Soviets or the Arabs?

Junblatt said: There is no chance of reaching a settlement with Michel 'Awn, but I am ready to discuss Lebanon's future with any Christian official who shows a willingness to build a new and modern Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Junblatt said that a visit by Pope John Paul II to Lebanon would not be welcome if it were restricted to a specific part of the country.

French Helicopter Reportedly Crashed 27 Aug

NC3008131989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Military sources have disclosed that the French Puma helicopter which crashed into the sea last Sunday was carrying weapons and ammunition to the gangs of the al-Yarzah army [of General Michel 'Awn]. French security sources covered up that scandal and issued no statement concerning the fate of the two pilots.

The same sources revealed that the al-Yarzah gangs received Iraqi artillery shells last week, some of which were transported by the helicopters flying between Larnaca and Juniyah. This is why the Cypriot Government halted the said helicopter flights. Cypriot authorities issued that decision last Saturday, explaining that the flights were used for reasons other than the humanitarian ones for which they were intended.

2 French Engineers Wounded in Beirut Clashes

NC3008111389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpts] According to the latest casualty toll, the Syrian attacks against the eastern areas last night and today wounded 18 people, including two members of a French engineering team. They are (Alan Degar) and (Pierre Parrot). [passage omitted]

West Beirut media have reported that seven people were wounded in recent clashes.

Fadlallah Comments on Latest Israeli Attack

LD2908200189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] According a Central News Unit report, on the basis of the latest statistics the number of martyrs killed by the Zionist regime's air attack on Ain-Budwar has reached 12.

'Allamah Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn Fadlallah, in an exclusive interview with the representative from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Beirut said: Israel with U.S. backing, seeks to respond to the selfless attack of Shaykh Az'ad (Barru) through the massacre of women and children, because that attack was a painful blow to the Zionist regime while endangering its security.

Syrian Cruiser Reportedly Hit Fuel Tanker

NC2908125489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] The fuel tanker "Sunshield" was hit at 0230 today, only 6 miles from the Lebanese coast. The tanker, flying a Maltese flag, was carrying over 2 million liters of fuel to East Beirut. A fire broke out in the rear of the tanker, surrounding nine crewmen, two of whom escaped the fire by jumping ship. They did, however, suffer serious burns. As for the missing crew, a maritime source has told AFP that having contained the fire, the rescue teams believe the nine crewmen who were still on board the tanker are dead. However, no bodies have yet been discovered. Lebanese Navy ships towed the tanker to shore.

How was the tanker hit? One of the survivors, Hanna Sadiq, said that a Syrian cruiser pursued the tanker and fired on it after Syrian artillery failed to inflict any damage on the ship.

Bodies of 7 Crewmen Found

NC2908192389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Security authorities this evening found the bodies of seven crewmen who burned to death on board the tanker "Sunshield," which came under Syrian artillery fire this morning 7 miles off the Lebanese coast. The search continues for two missing crew members.

Two surviving crewmen said that a Syrian cruiser [tarrad] chased the tanker after Syrian artillery failed to hit it, because it was protected by sandbags. The cruiser then opened fire on the tanker, setting it on fire.

Syrian Shelling Kills One, Wounds Several

NC2908153489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1334 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] The security situation is calm now following intermittent clashes on the mountain combat lines from 1230 to approximately 1600. Artillery shells reached the Lebanese Army's positions in Dahr al-Wahsh and some mortar shells fell on 'Arayya town.

Violent clashes involving tank fire took place on the commercial markets combat lines in the capital from 1345 to 1230.

The treacherous Syrian shelling at dawn and during the morning led to the martyrdom of citizen Louisa Ilyas al-Hilu and the wounding of her daughter Colette. Sawsan al-Tayf, In'am Ra'd, a child of Nuhra family, and his mother were also wounded.

Syria Says Country's Fate To Be Decided in Sep

NC2808054189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said that Lebanon's fate will be decided [hasm] in September. In an interview with an Abu Dhabi-based newspaper, the Syrian vice president maintained that either a political settlement will be worked out in Lebanon next month or a major military change will take place there.

Syrians Bombard Periphery of Presidential Palace

NC2708121989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] After their role in Lebanon was exposed, the Syrian forces and their allies resorted to treachery to produce the largest number of casualties among civilians. Since morning Syrian positions in West Beirut have intermittently shelled residential quarters in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Furn al-Shubbak, al-Hadath in East Beirut, and the Kasrawan Coast. The Syrian shelling wounded six people in Furn al-Shubbak and three people in al-Hadath.

At 1230 the Syrians fired rockets and artillery shells at Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-gharb. The Lebanese Army retaliated by shelling the sources of the Syrian fire in 'Ayn Nub and Shimlan.

At 1330 the Syrian Occupation Army bombarded the periphery of the Presidential Palace in B'abda with 160-mm shells, simultaneously shelling al-Hadath, al-Yarzah, B'abda, and Bitshay.

Overnight Clashes With Heavy Weapons Reported

NC2708062989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] The security situation deteriorated on the traditional combat lines shortly before midnight. Clashes involving heavy-caliber weapons took place in the old commercial center in Beirut, the Southern Suburb, and the Mountain. Shells also fell on areas far away from the traditional lines. The sound of shelling was heard until 0700 today.

VOL Reports Clashes, Shelling 27 Aug

NC2708065389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Text] The security situation suffered repeated setbacks along the confrontation lines in Beirut and the Southern Suburb. Residential neighborhoods close to the confrontation lines have come under rocket fire since 0345 today. Skirmishes took place on the Sodeco, Primo, al-Barjawi, al-Tayyunah, Galerie Sim'an, and the old Sidon road axes. Shells also fell on al-Ashrafiyah, Badaru, and Furn al-Shubbak where fires broke out and burned a number of cars.

Earlier at 0230 the Syrians shelled the Kasrawan and Jubayl coasts intermittently until 0400.

Clashes in Suburb; Maritime Target Shelled

NC2708115389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Violent clashes involving rocket and artillery fire took place on the southern Suburb confrontation lines at 1100 today. Shells fell in residential neighborhoods close to the contact lines, leaving two people wounded in Hayy Mu'awwad.

According to security reports from the eastern area, shells fell in Furn al-Shubbak, al-Haddath, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah, leaving nine people wounded.

The Lebanese Army's Beirut command issued a statement saying that the Lebanese Army shelled a maritime target off the Tabarja coast to prevent weapons from reaching the eastern area. [passage omitted]

Maritime Target Attacked off Juniyah Port

NC2808124989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1113 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] The operations room of the National Front and the Army Command in Beirut has reported that their artillery shelled a maritime target trying to approach the port of Juniyah this morning. This implements the decision banning military supplies to al-Yarzah army's cliques.

Beirut Army Command on Shelling

NC2908130889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] The guidance command of the Army Command in Beirut issued a statement today saying: Our artillery bombarded a maritime target off Juniyah port at 0225 this morning. This implements the decision banning arms and ammunition from reaching eastern area ports.

The Army Command issued a statement later saying: Our artillery engaged a maritime target which appeared off Juniyah port at 0225 this morning. This target received a direct hit, and fire broke out aboard it.

'Violent' Clashes Reported in Mountain, Beirut

NC3008061589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] According to the most recent security report, violent clashes involving machineguns, rockets, and artillery are currently raging along the combat lines in 'Alayh and Dahr al-Wahsh. Shells are falling on al-'Abbadiyah, Duhur al-'Abbadiyah, and Shwit. Meanwhile, fighting is also raging along the capital's traditional lines of Ra's al-Nab', al-Shiyah, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah. Residential areas in Marun Misk and al-Musharrafiyah are coming under concentrated shellfire. Security reports last night noted clashes that broke out along the combat lines of Beirut's markets, Ra's al-Nab', al-Shiyah, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah. Machineguns and rockets were used in the fighting. Last night's clashes left 2 people dead and 18 others wounded in East and West Beirut areas.

Israeli Aircraft Overfly Beirut, Mountain, South

NC3008083189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Israeli military aircraft carried out mid-altitude sorties over the capital, the mountain, and the south this morning.

Paper on Importance of Presence in Lebanon

JN3008102289 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Damascus, 30 Aug (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN affirms: The Syrian presence in Lebanon guarantees the integrity of this Arab country and prevents the creation of another Israel in the region. This presence has so far prevented the division and fall of this Arab country under the Zionist trusteeship. It also guarantees Lebanese, Syrian, and Arab security.

In today's comment under the headline "Syria is the Guarantee", TISHRIN says: It is clear that the isolationist opposition to the Syrian presence in Lebanon is due to the fact that this presence has prevented the implementation of the Israeli scheme to fragment Lebanon and set up a racist sectarian entity backing Israel.

TISHRIN wonders: Why is it that no pressure is being exercised on the isolationists to stop the war they are waging against the Lebanese people in particular? Why is it that no assistance is provided to Christian key figures to free themselves from the isolationist domination? Why is it that no efforts are being devoted to achieve national reconciliation and remove all obstacles on the road to dialogue among the Lebanese people?

TISHRIN concludes by saying that those who call for the withdrawal of Syrian troops are carrying out the 'Awn isolationist scheme and leading Lebanon to fragmentation, Zionization, and annihilation.

Government Rejects 'Colonialist' Powers' Advice

JN3008074889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Aug 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria Refuses To Abort the Pan-Arab Decision," AL-BA'TH editorial says: Syria, which has always adhered to the Arab leaders' decisions, has never violated a summit resolution, as Saddam and his criminal regime have done. Therefore, Syria adheres to the Casablanca achievements, and insists that only the Arab decision be implemented.

The paper adds: Syria, which has mobilized all its energies to defend the pan-Arab fate, is fully aware that allowing a power that had played a major role in fragmenting the Arab nation to interfere again in the Arab affairs means that this power, with its imperialist past, will seize every opportunity to impose its opinion and decision on part of our land and people.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Syria, like every Arab concerned about the Arab future and destiny, refuses to allow the colonialist capitals to play the role of adviser and consultant. Hence, Syria insists on the need to retreat from hasty positions and excitment resulting from consultations with powers known for their hostility to the Arab nation and for their major role in creating the crises and disasters that befell the Arab homeland.

Press on Arab Solution in Lebanon, Israeli Role

JN2808084289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Aug 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Arab Solution to Confront the Conspiracy," AL-BA'TH says: Throughout the 14-year-old crisis, the Lebanese facts have remained firm despite all attempts to forge and abrogate them and despite the pains and tragedies to which the Lebanese people were exposed in order to destroy their existence, homeland, and Arab affiliation. AL-BA'TH adds: Today more than ever before these facts emerge in the face of the new brutal onslaught that Lebanon has been witnessing for months. This onslaught peaked recently when the parties to the conspiracy kindled the fires of sedition and when the West, represented by France, became involved and dispatched fully-equipped military troops under weak excuses and pretexts that can convince nobody.

AL-BA'TH says: However, these fires and the campaigns of intimidation and threat that added fuel to these fires could not abrogate the Lebanese facts. On the contrary, these facts have become stronger, affirming that no force can peddle the conspiratorial scheme against Lebanon and the region. The first fact is the consensus of the overwhelming Lebanese majority on common principles regarding political reforms and national reconciliation that would build a free, independent Lebanon in which equality and justice prevail. The second fact is the liberation of the Lebanese territory from the Zionist occupation and the destruction of any conspiratorial Israeli interference in Lebanon's affairs. The third fact is Lebanon's pan-Arab affiliation and distinguished relationship with Syria, which has always given all kinds of support and sacrifice for the salvation of Lebanon and the end of its crisis.

AL-BA'TH affirms that while the conspiratorial tripartite alliance constitutes the tool of explosion and the continuation of the ordeal, the Arab solution, embodied by the Casablanca summit resolutions, represents the real entrance to stop the plot of explosion and to lay the bases needed to embark on the salvation process on clear and definite foundations.

Under the headline "The Arab Responsibility," TISHRIN says: Since the outbreak of the Lebanese crisis, Syria has affirmed that the political solution must stem from the conviction of the parties to the dispute. Throughout the past years, Syria exerted big efforts to push these parties to the dialogue table and to crystallize a national solution that will meet Lebanese ambitions and aspirations of living in a homeland where there will be no coercion or fear of the future.

TISHRIN adds: The crisis would be moving toward a settlement were it not for the continuous Israeli interference aimed at deepening the dispute among the Lebanese and creating warring factional cantons that will preoccupy the Arabs from the main conflict and prepare for sectarian wars and seditions in the entire Arab region. This interference takes many forms, such as arming agent militias, direct invasion, cutting off part of the south to use it as an aggressive base against the national resistance, and triggering 'Awn's recent destructive war.

TISHRIN says: The world believed for a period of time—after the convening of the Casablanca summit, adopting serious resolutions to resolve the crisis, and forming a tripartite committee for this purpose—that Lebanon would once and for all emerge from the dark alley. Syria, as well as the nationalist Lebanese forces, supported the tripartite committee. However, the results were disappointing, the Zionized clique increased the military escalation, seeking support from the Western fleets, and Israel mobilized its forces in southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN continues: The Arabs today are facing serious pan-Arab responsibilities. The international community is unanimous that the Arabs must shoulder these responsibilities. Therefore, this requires the Arab committee to resume its efforts within the framework of the Casablanca summit resolutions and their priorities to safeguard Lebanon's Arabism, abort the Israeli conspiracy, and achieve equality, justice, and security for the Lebanese.

Power Cuts Scheduled for Damascus Rural Area

PM2908134989 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 18 Aug 89 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Program for Rationing Electricity in Rural Damascus"]

[Text] The electricity supply administration of the Damascus Rural Governorate yesterday issued a program for rationing electricity in Damascus Rural Governorate as of next Saturday until Friday 1 September 1989 as follows:

The Damascus Rural Governorate electricity supply administration sets the rationing periods in Damascus Rural Governorate as of Saturday 19 August 1989 until Friday 1 September as follows:

The first period, 0700-1100 and 1900-2200 hours: 'Ayn Tarma, Hazzah, Kafr Batna, al-Ghutah road, al-Mulayhah, al-Qutayfah and its areas, al-Nabk, Yabrud and its areas, al-Dimas, al-Saburah area, al-Hamah, al-Sayyidah Zaynab, Hujayrah, Subaynah al-Saghirah, and part of Darya, Sahnaya al-Balad, and al-Ma'amil.

The second period, 0900-1300 and 2000-2300 hours: Madinat Duma, al-Shifuniyyah, Saqba, al-Misraba, Mudayrah, Tall al-Kurdi, Subaynah al-Kabirah, al-Kiswah road, al-Baridah, al-Kiswah, Jirmana, Bab Bila, al-Ghizlaniyah, al-Ghasulah, Harran al-'Awamid, right to Marj al-Sultan, Zabdin, Shab'a, Nashabiyah, 'Adra al-Balad, al-Damir, al-Mintaqah al-Hurrah in 'Adra, and the factories surrounding it.

The third period, 1100-1500 and 2300-0100 hours: Saydnaya, Rankus, Hash 'Arab, Halbun, part of al-Tall and the 'Arbain, Zamalka, al-Ma'amil road, al-Mu'ddamiyah, part of Darya, Khan al-Shaykh, Kawkab, al-Darkhabiyah, Zakiyah, 'Artuz, Jadidat 'Artuz, and the Darya and al-Dimas.

The fourth period, 1500-2000 hours: Mukhayyam al-Wafidin, Harasta, the Aleppo motorway, Wadi Sulaymah, 'Adra, al-'Utaybah, Nashabiyah, part of al-Tall, Ma'runah, Ma'amil al-Iskan, Manin, part of Harasta, part of Harasta road, al-Ghutah road, Qadsiya, Najha road, al-Suwayda', Dayr 'Ali, Shaqhab, part of al-Ma'amil area, al-Kiswah road, the airport road, Shab'a, part of Bab Bila, the beer factory, the marble factory, Dummar cement plant, and the cable factory.

This is in the knowledge that these periods can be extended if conditions become very difficult. They can also be reduced according to the state of the electricity network.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar Withdraws From Interim Government

BK3008043989 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 30 Aug 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] There has been a further split in the Afghan guerrilla opposition which operates from the Pakistani border city of Peshawar. One of the main parties which is made up the alliance, the Hezb-e Eslami [led by Golbuddin Hekmatyar], has said it is withdrawing its support from the mujahidin's interim government. Phil Jones in Islamabad has the details:

[Begin Jones recording] So far no reason has been given by Hezb-e Eslami, one of the seven parties in the Pakistan-based alliance of resistance groups, for what they called suspending their participation in the interim government that was formed by the mujahidin about 6 months ago. But the deepening split within the resistance came to the fore when it was alleged that 30 members of the rival faction in the north of Afghanistan, the Jamiyat-e Eslami [led by Burhanuddin Rabbani], were killed in an ambush led by Hezb.

The commander who was supposed to have been responsible has now been arrested by the rival faction and is now said to be awaiting trial by an interim government tribunal.

In the northern city of Peshawar [Pakistan], the Hezb party announced that their boycott of the interim government would continue until full elections were held to a shura, a consultative council, which they said would end all internal differences and clashes.

In the meantime, the party said that it would continue to maintain sincere and brotherly relations with all Islamic parties prepared to launch joint military regime against the communist regime in Kabul. [end recording]

Najibullah Opens Meli Shura Session

LD3008001589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1630 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Speech by President Najibullah at the opening of the Meli Shura session in Kabul 29 August—recorded]

[Text] In name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Dear members of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan, dear friends, in line with Article 86 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, I open the fourth session of the first round of the Meli Shura in the name of God the great, and with hope for the end of war and a guarantee of peace in our dear country. Three months have passed since the end of the previous Meli Shura session, which ended at the beginning of April 1989. During this period the Afghan Government has honestly and consistently continued the policy of national reconciliation to end war and ensure peace in the country and is still continuing this policy, which is in complete compliance with the wishes of the people of Afganistan.

During the last 3 months, some of the armed opposition have not only failed to abandon fighting and killing their brothers and ignored the Afghan Government's peace proposals, they have intensified their fighting. An increase in military pressure in some provinces and blocking highways, an increase in psychological warfare and widespread rocket attacks on cities and provinces of the country are among those acts that have further revealed the true face of the warmongers. Some extremist warmongers have made terrorism and the ruthless killing of our compatriots their profession. They get weak in the battlefield when they confront the resolute resistance of the armed forces of the Republic of Afghanistan and their terrorist acts intensify. You have noticed that the extremist opposition's terrorist activities have increased daily.

Unfortunately, international circles are encouraging and supporting continued war and fratricide in Afghanistan. The extremists' international supporters do not assess or understand the country's current situation realistically, and in spite of pressure from peace-loving communities they support and encourage war and fratricide in Afghanistan.

Saudi Wahhabi mercenaries, of which there have been a number in various provinces in the country, are providing practical assistance to armed extremist groups throughout the country. You can see there is interference and aggression in the country. Under pressure from their international supporters, the extremists have rejected Afghanistan's proposals for ending the war and ensuring peace.

At the same time, the Afghan Government has accelerated talks and contacts with opposition forces in line with resolutions by the Afghan Grand Assembly, with tangible results. A large number of commanders in northern, northwestern, eastern, and central parts of the country have ended their armed activities and have expressed readiness to hold talks and form a coalition government in their areas. A number of the commanders are in touch with the Afghan Government, and talks are continuing. A number of these commanders have maintained security in their areas and ended combat operations. Some internal commanders have publicly joined the Afghan Government.

While the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan responds with goodwill to every peace-loving step of the armed opposition and takes reciprocal acts, it considers the defense of the life of our compatriots, territorial integrity, and national independence of the country its Islamic and national obligation.

You are aware that on the basis of the right to self-defense endorsed by the April Grand Assembly, for the defence of territorial integrity and national independence, the government repulsed the broad aggression of

the joint extremist forces and foreign aggressors on Jalalabad at the end of June. The retaliatory move carried out by the armed forces stationed in Nangarhar broke the blockade and pushed back the warmongers. The present position of our armed forces in Nangarhar is Sorkh Dewal and Samar Kheyl regions and they are resolutely defending their positions. Despite all difficulties during the past 3 months the government has kept transportation to Kabul and other cities of the country running—with losses and damage—with the assistance of the peace-loving people of Afghanistan. This process confronts the subversive action of the opposition. They intend to squeeze the throat of our people once again by economic blockade and by cutting the highway. I must point out that the government of the Republic of Afghanistan will do everything so that the situation last winter does not recur and the people of Afghanistan do not face shortages of food. Those who want to cut off the highways and prevent the transportation of essential goods will also face the hatred of our people. I visited Jalalabad 2 days ago and talked in person with the chiefs and government officials and inspected some parts of the garrison and security posts. I must tell you, esteemed delegates, that the units of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan stationed in Nangarhar—the officers, men, and inhabitants—are defending their positions with firmness and courage and with a spirit of self-sacrifice. They are repelling the enemy attacks with decisiveness and imposing heavy losses on them.

During the visit to Jalalabad, I once again announced the commitment of the Republic of Afghanistan to the policy of national reconciliation and to the solution of the country's issues by political means.

Dear delegates, life has shown that the opening and closing sessions of the Meli Shura coincide with important events. On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Afghan independence the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has proposed a new program, a new, realistic mechanism for peace to end the war and restore peace. I am fully confident that you are aware of this proposal. Once again, I want to explain the various aspects of this proposal which undoubtedly will have an organic link with the coming task in your sessions.

The first step is the beginning of talks and dialogue between the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan and all organizations and circles and with those Afghans who seek peace and an end to war, in any country proposed by the opposition. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has expressed its readiness to hold talks with them both on an individual or a collective bases. If all-around understanding is achieved in these talks then a nationwide peace conference can be convened which will appoint a leadership council expressing the views of the various political groups. At the nationwide peace conference a 6-month cease-fire must be proclaimed, and thus the leadership council will be able to accomplish effectively their subsequent activities.

The leadership council will be commissioned during the cease-fire period to set up a coalition government with social bases reflecting the interests of the forces composing the leadership council. Meanwhile the leadership council will have the duty of assigning a commission to draft a new constitution and to call a traditional Grand Assembly of the Afghan people to approve that constitution. The leadership council will assign that same commission to prepare the draft election law for the Meli Shura and also submit it to the Grand Assembly for approval. In preparing and drafting the constitution, the views, interests and suggestions of all forces and refugees should be considered.

The Grand Assembly should approve the Constitution and election law. In this way the ground will be prepared for legislative elections. As a result of such elections a new government will be set up which will be far removed from threat and pressure and will be acceptable to all in a natural way.

Following the 30 October 1988 proposals presented to the concluding session of the Meli Shura, the Afghan Government, without undermining the regional and international aspects of the solution of issues, proposed that an international conference on Afghanistan should be convened with the participation of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, the United States, the Soviet Union, India, and China. If this international conference agreed to the permanent neutrality of Afghanistan and demilitarization of the country with all political and socioeconomic rights resting with the people, and if acceptable guarantees were given by neighboring countries and the permanent members of the UN Security Council, then the Republic of Afghanistan, as a permanently neutral and demilitarized country, would begin to tackle the socioeconomic issues. Under such circumstances the ground will not be receptive to threats or pressures. And the people of Afghanistan by electing their leaders, will make decisions for themselves without fear or intimidation.

The Afghan Government is also ready to hold elections under UN supervision.

These are the proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan. These proposals are the reflection of the demand of our people to end the fratricide. These proposals, which are welcomed by the Afghan people, have been well received in various countries of the world. On the basis of this analysis various meetings and discussions have taken place in Peshawar between the leaders of various organizations about the Afghan Republic's new peace program.

You have seen that many of these leaders have rejected these proposals by simply saying no to make things easy. They do so without reason or argument and without considering the positive or negative aspects—even before becoming aware of the proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan. Nevertheless, the Afghan Government is fully confident that realistic circles in the world and those opposition forces who favor ending the war and achieving peace will seriously consider these proposals in

a realistic manner, with full attention and in consideration of the high interests of the common homeland of Afghans.

Without a doubt the wise people of Afghanistan and peace-loving circles of the world will compare the peace-seeking proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan with the stance of some warmongering extremist forces who have not presented any kind of socioeconomic program.

Esteemed friends, the Meli Shura is commencing its fourth session at a time when our people are being severely tested. Events over the past 6 months have been painful but instructive. The people of Afghanistan have suffered many losses. They have also identified those responsible for the continuation of the war. In view of the fact that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has many times proposed a cease-fire as the first step toward reaching an agreement, responsibility for the continuation of the war and for the losses suffered by the people of Afghanistan rests, above all, with those who carry out vengeful attacks against the people in order to continue the war.

Over the past 3 months our people have suffered loss of life and material and emotional damage as a result of rocket attacks by the extremists. Material losses and damage can well be compensated for despite the difficult economic problems but, regretfully, the people of Afghanistan's children, who have lost their lives as a result of those rocket attacks, cannot be compensated at any price. The mothers who have lost their sons, those bereaved families which have lost their only breadwinner as a result of international terrorism, and those children who have the scar of the loss of their father on their foreheads demand the hands of Pakistani, American, and Saudi Arabian interventionists and aggressors be cut out of our country.

I declare clearly to the representatives of the nation that we will use all means, even sacrificing our lives, for the cessation of war and the salvation of the life of our compatriots. [applause] Some extremist leaders shout slogans in favor of continuing the war and show contempt for the demands and important wishes and needs of the people of Afghanistan repudiating them by force. We have said often the repudiation of this party or that political organization in the present situation cannot put an end to the pains of Afghans.

Now the wishes of the people of Afghanistan and the supreme interests of our fatherland resolutely call for the unification of all Afghans to safeguard an independent, free, nonaligned, united, and powerful Afghanistan where oppression and division will be seen no more, and to free their common country from aggression and interference by aliens.

I am fully confident that members of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan, as members of the country's reconciliation parliament and as the credible representatives of the great home of Afghans, can and must play their patriotic, national, and Islamic role to ensure the only wish of the people of Afghanistan—the cessation of war and the restoration of peace. The people of Afghanistan look forward to having peace, and from this session which starts today that it play an active role in this process.

A number of Afghan representatives, benefiting from the recess, have fulfilled useful work to put an end to the war and to ensure peace. For instance, as a result of the activities of Haj Mohammad Yaqub, a representative of the people of Ghowr Province, two armed groups have given up armed activities and three commanders of the opposition participated in the grand assembly in April. Other members of the armed forces have also carried out peace-loving activities. Allow me to express my gratitude to the representatives for their unsparing efforts to convey the resolutions of the Grand Assembly and wish from God further success at this session of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan.

U.S. Congressional Candidate Ends Visit

LD2908174989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Bill Quraishi, a candidate for the U.S. Senate who had come to Kabul, left today for his country. During an interview at Kabul International Airport, he answered questions from domestic and foreign journalists and explained the reasons for and results of his trip. He stated the aim of his visit to Kabul was to help toward the process of maintaining peace in Afghanistan. He said: During a meeting with esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, I found out that the Republic of Afghanistan is really prepared to solve Afghanistan's problems politically. Afghanistan is pursuing the path of dialogue and negotiation to achieve the cessation of war and bloodshed.

According to another report Quraishi, a U.S. senatorial candidate, yesterday met with Nafas Jahesh, head of the Watan nursery establishment and toured various parts of the nursery.

U.S. Afghan Policy Called 'State Terrorism'

LD2808063589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 28 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 27, BAKHTAR—A BAKHTAR commentator writes that: Certain circles in the United States contrary to all internationally accepted norms and human rights declaration, continue the policy of state terrorism against the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] and support the continuation of war and bloodletting in Afghanistan.

The White House administration has sent Peter Tomsen as its special envoy to the Afghan armed opposition groups stationed in Peshawar. Tomsen, on the one hand, supervises the activities of the armed opposition groups and, on the other, continues the U.S. all-sided military assistance to the war-mongers in Afghanistan.

Thus the opposition war-mongers at the demand of P. Tomsen possessed up-to-date U.S.-made rockets with a long-range and having much destructive power. The extremists fire these rockets on densely populated areas in Afghan cities.

Recently another anti-Afghan element from the United States named Senator Claiborne Pell, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during his visit from Islamabad, has once again defended the U.S. policy of state terrorism and confirmed the intensification of armed interferences in the internal affairs of the RA.

Besides, he has emphasized that, the U.S. Administration supports the continuation of delivery of weapons to the Afghan armed opposition and the United States will put bombs and tanks at the disposal of the armed extremists.

The expressions of the said senator revealed the fact that the United States not only ignores its obligations towards the Geneva accords as a guarantor, but contrary to its false claims as saying that as if struggles against state terrorism in the world, now itself has been converted into a factor of state terrorism in Afghanistan. [sentence as received]

Washington uses the so-called interim government of opposition, formed at the behest of the U.S. war-mongering circles, Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis in Rawalpindi, as a means of aggressions and interferences in the internal affairs of the RA.

Senator Claiborne Pell during his stay in Pakistan, visited heads of the so-called Rawalpindi interim government. He assured the extremists leaders on the continuation of the U.S. assistance.

It is not accidental that the Rawalpindi Pakistani-self made government rejected the latest constructive proposals of the Afghan leadership on the peaceful solution of the Afghan issue, because the main goal of these sold-out elements is the implementation of the policy of U.S. state terrorism. The so-called Rawalpindi government contrary to the will of the Afghan people have promised their masters the continuation of fratricidal war and bloodshed in Afghanistan.

Contrary, the new mechanism, proposed on August 19 by President Najibullah, opens the way for the cessation of war in Afghanistan and guarantees the ensurance of political rights for all Afghans. [sentence as received] It is the fact that Washington, contrary to all legal, moral and humanistic norms, continues its policy of intensification of war in Afghanistan.

Heavy Fighting Reported Near Qandahar Airport

Kabul-Baghran Highway Closed

BK2908163689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Excerpts] According to reports from Afghanistan, there is heavy fighting going on between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces near Qandahar airport. In another operation, mujahidin shelled military installations in Jalalabad, damaging five heavy military vehicles. Meanwhile, the mujahidin closed the Kabul-Baghran Highway.

Rocket Attack Hits Aiport

BK2908170689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1654 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug 29 (AFP)—Mujahidin gunners Tuesday launched a rocket attack on Kabul airport, sending incoming passengers fleeing to the city without their luggage, but no casualties were reported, eyewitnesses said.

A government spokesman put the number of rockets hitting the airport area at seven, while eyewitnesses said more than 10 impacted in two separate salvoes, one early in the morning and one later in the morning.

The spokesman said one rocket hit the northern edge of the city wounding two children.

"As the plane came in we saw one impacting to the right and another to the left, then there was another closer by," said one passenger who flew in from New Delhi as the missiles were landing.

The passenger said he had seen one of the missiles hit on the military side of the airport, but was unable to see any damage, and added that airport staff hurried the passengers out of the airport area leaving their luggage to be picked up later in the day.

There appeared to be no damage to the runway, and a flight for Tashkent in the Soviet Union was seen taking off early in the evening.

Meanwhile, the government confirmed that there had been a large scale mujahidin ground attack launched on the eastern city of Khowst in Paktia Province, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) from the Pakistan border August 24.

"It was repulsed with heavy blows to the enemy," a spokesman said, adding that the mujahidin had followed up the attack with heavy rocket attacks daily since Thursday.

Reports from Peshawar, base of the mujahidin alliance of seven, have said that pilots told them two outposts, five kilometres (three miles) from Khowst, had fallen into mujahidin hands last week.

In addition, journalists at Kabul's military airport during the weekend reported that ammunition flights were leaving "almost non-stop" for Khowst.

The reporters said pilots told them Khowst airport was under heavy rocket fire and that often passengers had to jump from the planes straight into trenches.

Khowst has come under frequent attacks, the government said, because of its proximity to the Pakistan border, but reports during the past week have indicated that the mujahidin, having failed to take the eastern city of Jalalabad, now heavily reinforced, appear to be making a major push for Khowst.

All landlines from Kabul, the only possible sources of supplies for Khowst, are cut, and the government is totally dependent on the Air Force to resupply the city with ammunition and food.

In the last 24 hours the government killed 15 mujahidin in the Khowst area and injured another 27, the spokesman said, but gave no casualties in Thursday's attack or in subsequent fighting, most of which he said consisted of "long range rocketting and shelling."

Diplomats here have called Khowst a "logical target" for the Pakistan-based mujahidin since the failure of the push on Jalalabad which began early March. However some have queried the wisdom of the Khowst attempt, saying the government in the long run has an unbeatable air power superiority.

Heavy government strikes with bombers and Soviet-supplied Scud missiles caused heavy mujahidin casualties in the battle for Jalalabad.

India

Opposition Announces Plan for 30 Aug Strike

BK2608134289 Delhi PATRIOT in English 21 Aug 89 p 1

[By special correspondent]

[Excerpts] National Front Convenor V.P. Singh said on Sunday that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi might use the excuse of the Pakistani military exercise scheduled in December to "postpone" the general elections.

Briefing newsmen about the National Front's plan for holding rallies in State capitals culminating in "Bharat Bundh" [Strike all over India] on August 30, Mr V.P. Singh said Pakistan had planned to conduct its biggest military exercise in the Jammu and Kashmir border. India may also go for a similar exercise which might build up tension in the country and which could be used as a ploy to postpone general elections.

Appealing to the people to support the "Bharat Bundh", Mr Singh said that the government and the prime minister had forfeited the mandate to rule the country. "They should quit", Mr V.P. Singh stressed. [passage omitted]

Asked whether the National Front was ready for the elections if the dates were advanced, Mr V.P. Singh said "We are always ready".

Accusing Mr Rajiv Gandhi of destroying every democratic institution in the country, Mr Singh said a "mental derangement" has taken place in the personality of the prime minister.

Referring to Mr Gandhi's branding of some opposition leaders as traitors, Mr Singh accused the prime minister of destabilising the country. [passage omitted]

5,000 'Preventive Arrests' Made

BK2908171089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Elaborate arrangements have been made to maintain law and order and ensure smooth functioning of public services on the proposed bundh [strike] tomorrow called by some opposition parties.

The minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, has appealed to the people to ignore the opposition sponsored bundh. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said it is a politically motivated bundh, and only politicians belonging to opposition parties are joining.

Mr Chidambaram said there is a concerted effort very cleverly disguised to create conditions of fear in the opposition-ruled states.

Referring to the circular issued to the government employees not to absent themselves on the bundh day, the minister said this is nothing unusual. These instructions are not different from those issued during 1982 and 1988 bundhs.

Mr Chidambaram recalled that the 1982 bundh was called against the economic policies of the government, including the budget, which was presented by the then finance minister, Mr V.P. Singh.

Mr Chidambaram said when such circulars were issued, Mr V.P. Singh did not protest.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, spoke this evening on telephone to the chief ministers of several states, including those belonging to the opposition-ruled states. He sought their full cooperation in the protection of central government installations and public sector units during the threatened bundh tomorrow.

The home minister reminded the chief ministers, including Mr N.T. Rama Rao [of Andhra Pradesh], Mr Jyoti Basu [of West Bengal], Mr Mahanta [of Assam], and Mr Devi Lal [of Haryana] that it is the responsibility of the state governments to ensure that adequate security is provided. They should also see that the work in public sector undertakings and central government offices is not disrupted in any way. Mr Buta Singh said that serious note will be taken of any damage caused to these installations and the state governments will be held responsible for the consequences.

Nearly 5,000 preventive arrests have been made in different parts of the country. These included 4,000 in Tamil Nadu, 360 in Orissa, and 300 in Delhi.

State governments have been asked to take appropriate measures to provide security to government offices, banks, industrial, and other central establishments. Government servants, who remain absent from duty tomorrow, will be treated as [word indistinct] and the principle of no work, no pay will apply. In case of those government servants who indulge in other acts of misconduct, action will be taken under the fundamental rules, which can result in break in service apart of initiating disciplinary action.

Representatives of various labor unions in Delhi have resolved not to participate in the proposed bundh called by some opposition parties. They said they will not allow themselves to be exploited by vested interest and will maintain normal functioning.

Meanwhile, more reports have come condemning the calls of the bundh. The Janata Party has asked the people to stay away from it as the bundh is against public interest and the spirit of patriotism. The Bharat Sevak Samaj [a social welfare organization] has urged the people to oppose the bundh in the national interest. The National Confederation of Central Government Employees and Workers and the National Federation of Defense Workers said the bundh will affect productivity and production and it is not in the interest of working class.

The president of the National Federation of State Government Employees and MP [member of Parliament], Mr P.N. Sukla, has appealed to all the employees and workers of the country not to participate in the proposed bundh which is against the betterment of the lot of the working class. Several employees, organizations, including those in the field of banking and transport, have also decided to maintain normal services.

The Congress-I has appealed to all those who stand for progress and prosperity of the country, to oppose the bundh and keep the wheels of the great nation moving. The party general secretary, Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, described the bundh call given by some opposition parties as the most undemocratic means to muster any public support. He asserted that the call is much against the wishes of the people of this country.

Mr Azad told newsmen that it is all the more unfortunate that chief ministers of non-Congress ruled states are sponsoring the bundh. This shows how much they are interested in the welfare of the people, particular millions of those who live on daily wages.

Background of Strike Outlined

BK3008031089 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 30 Aug 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] Opposition parties in India pursuing their campaign to force the prime minister, Mr Gandhi, to resign have called for a general strike today and in an attempt to forestall it the authorities arrested thousands of people. Mark Tully sent this report on the eve of the threatened strike:

[Begin Tully recording] Ruling Congress Party clearly feels threatened by the strike call. Elaborate attempts have been made to foil it. Government servants have been sent individual letters threatening the most serious consequences if they do not report for work. Arrangements have been made for them to sleep in their offices. At least one confederation of government employees have protested against the threat. In Delhi, local officials have warned shopkeepers they could face prosecution if they do not stay open. Television has been showing advertisements critical of the strike and interviews of members of the public who oppose it. The TIMES OF INDIA which firmly supports the government has criticized what it calls the brazen misuse of the media and describes the government's reaction to the strike as smacking of a [word indistinct] desperation. Privately some senior officials say that the government has overreacted, giving the strike publicity. They also fear that the importance the government has given to the strike will create a fear which will make people afraid to come to work. It is clear that the government regards the strike as a serious threat to its standing when it term of office is running out. At the same time the opposition hopes the strike will keep up the momentum of the joint movement they have started against Rajiv Gandhi. For the first time rightwing Hindu parties and the Communists are united in a political movement. [end recording]

Strike Evokes Little Response

BK3008033689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Reports from most parts of the country received so far indicate that the bundh [strike] called by some opposition parties has had no impact, and life is normal. Rail and air services throughout the country are functioning as usual. A team of our correspondents that visited some areas of the union territory of Delhi report back that DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] fleet of private buses under DTC are plying as usual. DTC services on trunk routes have also left this morning as per scheduled. Some taxis, autorickshaws, trucks, and private cars were also seen on the roads. Groups of people on bicycles were proceeding to their destinations. Usual queues were there in early morning in front of milk booths, and distribution of milk was normal. Some tea stalls and shops selling eggs, bread, and polythene milk packets were also working as usual.

Delhi police sources said except for a lone incident of stone throwing on a bus in West Delhi, no untoward incident has been reported. The wholesale vegetable market at Azadpur was partially opened since early morning. Our correspondent also reports that daily wage earners were seen squatting at their usual beats in Old Delhi areas. The lieutenant governor [of Delhi] has already announced that full protection will be provided to all those who proceed to work. The police commissioner has also announced that no coercion to force people to join the bundh will be tolerated. Police patrolling has been intensified, and all pickets adequately manned.

Reports received at the Railway Board in New Delhi this morning speak of train services being affected in Madras and Trivandrum Divisions and portions of Palghat and Tiruchu Divisions in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. However, train services are normal in Bangalore and Mysore Divisions. Early morning incoming trains reached Madras and Sikanderbad stations. Train services are reported to have been affected in Andhra Pradesh area of South Central Railways. In Maharashtra and Karnataka, train services are reported to be normal. In Assam and West Bengal train services have been affected by agitators squatting on rail tracks. The railways are making arrangements to provide facilities to passengers stranded at various stations. Normal operations of train service have been reported from the northern, central and western railways.

Reports from state capitals say that the bundh has evoked little impact. State governments have taken adequate precautions to provide protection to citizens and maintain essential services like transport and hospitals, while vital installations have been guarded by police personnel. In Bombay, suburban and long distance train services are operating according to schedule. The city and state transport buses are also plying as usual. In Madras, state transport services and city buses were abruptly withdrawn at 1900 yesterday evening resulting in unprecedented rush on the suburban trains. The rush was cleared by arranging additional train services. Reports from Ahemadabad say there was no sign of closure anywhere in the city. Railways, telephones, and telegraphs reported normal attendance after midnight. State transport buses and city buses are plying as usual. Taxis and rickshaws are also seen on the road. In Himachal Pradesh, life in major towns and villages is reported normal. The bundh has failed to evoke any response in Bihar so far. Our Patna correspondent, who went round various parts of the capital city, reports that all types of vehicles are seen plying on the road as usual. In Jammu, minibuses are plying and students have started going to schools. In Sikkim, life is normal as buses, taxis, and private vehicles are plying.

In Punjab, normal activities have not been affected so far. An official spokesman told our Chandigarh correspondent that reports from all the districts in the state indicate that normal life has not been affected anywhere. Reports from Nagaland speak of normal activities. [passage omitted]

Reports just received say in Haryana, postal and telecommunication services are normal, and all trains are running as per schedule. In West Bengal, no untoward incident has been reported so far in view of today's bundh. After visiting various parts of Calcutta City, our correspondent reports that a few vehicles were seen on the roads.

Further Report on Turnout

BK3008103489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 30 Aug 89

[Text] The bundh [strike] call given by some opposition parties has so far had little impact in most parts of the country while it evoked some response in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal. The Indian Airlines flights are operating normally. Flights from Delhi left on schedule and arrivals from Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras reached on time.

A spokesman of the Indian Airlines said hundred percent attendance has been reported at the airport and other offices.

Normal train services have also been reported from the northern, central, and western railways. However, information reaching the Railway Board in New Delhi speaks of disruption in railway services in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, and Assam. In Haryana, a number of trains were stopped at several places. Yesterday, the Haryana chief minister, Mr Devi Lal, while speaking at a public meeting at Hodal had called upon the people to block the roads and train traffic to paralyze normal activities. He also suggested that young men should board each train passing through Haryana and pull the chain at the moment it starts.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi a short while ago that in Haryana the railways have asked the state government to provide additional forces, but they were not provided so far. At one place in Haryana, a state minister was leading the crowd, which is blocking the trains.

Bank branches are transacting their business all over the country excepting in Calcutta, where picketing is going on in front of the bank offices. Attendance in Life Insurance Corporation offices has been affected by the bundh.

In the capital, the opposition-sponsored bundh has evoked partial response. The city buses and all modes of private transport are plying. Essential services like milk and water supply, electricity and delivery of duk [mail] are maintained as usual.

A team of AIR [All India Radio] correspondents, who went around the various localities, reports that life in the city is not generally affected. Attendance in government

offices and banks is normal. Education institutions are open. Petrol pumps and cinema houses are having usual business.

Main commercial centers like Cannaught Place, Chandni Chowk, Sadarbazar, and Karol Bagh are partially closed. In some parts of the city, particularly in north and west Delhi, industrial houses are closed. But in east Delhi, the bundh has no impact on most of the industrial establishments.

According to police, no untoward incident has been reported except for a stray incident of stone throwing and breaking of window panes of some buses.

A spokesman of the Delhi Transport Corporation [DTC] said that more than 3,800 DTC buses and another 722 private buses are plying as usual. Our correspondent says bus services from Delhi to other states, particularly those passing through Haryana, have been affected by the bundh.

In Punjab, central and state government offices, banks, factories, and educational institutions are open and buses are plying as usual. In neighboring Haryana, the state transport buses were off the road, and the business and teaching activities in almost all the cities in the towns, barring Sonipath, have been affected.

The bundh evoked little response in Himachal Pradesh and in the Kashmir valley of Jammu and Kashmir. It had partial impact in the Jammu Division.

The bundh had also little impact in the northeastern states, except in Assam, where normal life was affected in Silchar and some other areas.

In Andhra Pradesh, a mob threw stones and bombs on the premises of the low-powered transmitter of Doordarshan [Indian television] at Porotur, about 60 kilometers from Kadappa Town this morning. Later, they forcibly entered the premises of the station and attack the officers on duty. No policeman was seen to resist and repulse the violent mob. The superintendent of police has also confirmed the incident. State-owned buses were off the roads and educational institutions closed.

In Tripura, 700 persons, including the leader of the opposition of the state assembly, Mr Nripen Chakravorty, were arrested for general picketing.

Normal life remained unaffected in Bihar. All government offices, banks, and coal mines are working normally and train and bus services are being maintained.

In West Bengal, the bundh supported by the ruling left front affected normal life. Trams and buses and other vehicles are off the road and shops and bazaars remained closed. But the metro railways is running smoothly.

In Orissa, the bundh evoked partial response with offices, industrial establishments, and banks [words indistinct] and some shops and bazaars closed.

In Gujarat, the bundh call evoked little impact. Transport and other essential services functioned normally. In south Gujarat and Saurastra and Kutch region about 54 percent of shops and markets are closed.

The bundh evoked a lukewarm response at Bombay and other parts of Maharashtra.

In Tamil Nadu, rail services have been resumed after initial obstructions. The chief minister, Mr M. Karunanidhi, said over 3,000 persons have been arrested for picketing on railway tracks.

In Madras, state transport services and city buses were abruptly withdrawn at 1900 yesterday. Vehicular traffic were off the roads and shops remained closed in Kerala. In Karnataka, the bundh call evoked a marginal response. While public undertakings, banks and government offices reported normal attendance, only a few commercial shops in the city were closed.

Activity Halted in Some Areas

BK3008071689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0701 GMT 30 Aug 89

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 30 (AFP)—The government pursued a crackdown on its opponents Wednesday, arresting hundreds, as a general strike to force Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to resign on corruption charges crippled parts of India.

Political sources and news reports said police continued arrests of middle-ranking opposition leaders and activists in a bid to foil the day-long strike called jointly by opposition parties, the first in many years.

The crackdown began Monday ahead of Wednesday's "Bharat Bundh" (shut India), which crippled normal life in six states governed by the opposition.

The situation was described as near normal in states ruled by Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party and federally-administered territories.

The protest appeared to be largely peaceful, although police said that opposition and ruling party supporters clashed at one place in the capital, and six near-empty buses were stoned, injuring three persons.

Authorities in the capital claimed "near normal" attendance at government offices where several thousand employees slept overnight after being warned that absentees would be punished with a cut in wages.

Steel-helmeted policemen and mounted and mobile police patrols were posted at all important traffic junctions and markets here to prevent violence which had been widely predicted.

The protest was seen as a test of strength between the opposition and Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) Party ahead of

general elections due at the end of this year—the first since the 45-year-old premier stormed to power in late 1984.

Wednesday's strike was called mainly to protest against the alleged payment of huge kickbacks to key government officials in the award in 1986 of a 1.3-billion-dollar artillery contract to the Swedish arms firm Bofors.

Political sources here reported more than 350 arrests since the strike got under way early Wednesday, with policemen making sweeps on the houses of opposition politicians and factories where trade unions halted work.

A spokesman for the Janata Dal (People's Party), the country's major centrist opposition, said about 250 party workers were arrested from an industrial area in the capital's trouble-prone West District.

The right-wing Bharatiya Janata (Indian People's) Party (BJP) and the two main communist parties also reported more than 100 arrests across the capital, including that of the city's BJP Vice-President Mewa Ram Arya.

Hundreds of arrests, including those of "anti-social elements", reportedly continued in most states.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said life appeared to be normal in northern Uttar Pradesh, the country's most populous and Mr. Gandhi's home state where both private and public transport were operating as usual.

Life was also normal in the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh and the union territory of Pondicherry, all of which are ruled by the Congress (I), the news agency said.

In the western coastal State of Maharashtra, where two opposition parties announced they would not join the strike, buses and local trains were running as usual but most taxis and scooter-taxis were off the roads.

In New Delhi, more than 4,000 government-owned and private buses plied the streets Wednesday, but without their normal quota of passengers. Most markets were closed while taxis and scooter-taxis took a day off.

But normal activity came to a halt in the opposition-ruled states of West Bengal, Haryana, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Tamil Nadu, where most transport was off the roads and government offices, banks and factories were closed.

A railway spokesman here said that strike supporters disrupted train movements in the opposition-ruled states, "causing discomfort to thousands of innocent people. We are trying our best to cope with the situation."

A spokesman for Indian Airlines, which carries more than 30,000 passengers a day on its more than 300 flights, said operations Wednesday were "more than normal" at all airports.

Work at international airports also continued without disruption, officials said.

The alleged kickback controversy took a dramatic turn last month when more than 100 opposition MP's resigned from Parliament after an official watchdog body blamed the government for mishandling the deal.

The federal government Tuesday despatched thousands of para-military personnel from the border security force and the central reserve police force to "sensitive states" and alerted all police forces to prevent violence.

In a related development, the independent THE TRIBUNE newspaper Wednesday lashed out at political parties for calling the strike which it said was serving no purpose.

"No (strike) can be successful if it does not enjoy the support of the common people and it is doubtful if any does," the English-language newspaper published from northern Chandigarh city said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

BK2908161289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, arrived in New Delhi this afternoon on a day's visit. Dr Velayati is leading an eight-member delegation.

Immediately after his arrival, Dr Velayati held discussions with his Indian counterpart, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that during the 90-minute meeting, both the leaders discussed several issues, including Nonaligned Movement; situation in Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Cambodia; and bilateral relations.

Meets With Gandhi, Counterpart

LD2908191689 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 29, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a nine-member delegation arrived here Tuesday afternoon for talks with senior Indian officials.

Upon his arrival, Velayati met with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his counterpart Narasimha Rao and discussed bilateral ties and international issues including the forthcoming non-aligned summit in Belgrade.

According to sources close to the Iranian delegation, Velayati has delivered a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Indian prime minister and discussed with him the emerging 'good relations' between the two countries specially following the recent agreement concluded in Tehran on the controversial Kudremukh iron ore issue.

Velayati who is here on a one-day official visit at the invitation of his Indian counterpart on his way to

Belgrade, was welcomed at the airport by Rao and the Iranian ambassador to New Delhi Ibrahim Rahimpour.

Upon his arrival, the Iranian foreign minister and his accompanying delegation met with Rao and other high-ranking officials for 90 minutes. They discussed various topics on bilateral relations and international issues.

According to a Foreign Ministry spokesman Narasimha Rao expressed satisfaction over the exchange of meetings between the two countries and greatly appreciated Iran's efforts in this respect. The visit of the Iranian foreign minister was also described as a 'welcome move' at present crucial time coinciding with the non-aligned summit.

Velayati also expressed satisfaction of the Iranian Government over the important steps taken on bilateral relations in the last few months. He expressed appreciation over the positive outcome of recent talks in Tehran by the finance secretary G.K. Arora which resulted in a number of agreements including a settlement on Kudremekh issue.

He expressed hope that Indo-Iranian joint commission will meet in the near future in Tehran and said that there is wide expectation that the joint commission could usher a new 'period of cooperation' between the two countries.

The visiting Iranian foreign minister, while talking on Iran's reconstruction, said that Iran was poised to undertake major programs of reconstruction and assured that India could play a positive role in this connection.

Velayati in his talks on the regional issues briefed his Indian counterpart on the implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 including the registration and the exchange of the prisoners of war (POW's).

The two foreign ministers also discussed the situation in Lebanon and underlined the urgent need for finding a solution to the unending fighting.

On Afghanistan issue, the Iranian foreign minister referred to the recent series of meetings between Iran, Soviet Union and Pakistan and said that all efforts should be made to ensure that Afghanistan's non-aligned status is respected by all parties.

Velayati agreed that the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit is being held under a different situation since the emerging detente between the superpowers and the decrease of tension in areas of conflict. However, there are areas like Cambodia and Afghanistan where NAM has to redouble its efforts.

On the economic front, he said, the NAM should work as the catalyst and the real representative of the Third World countries for removing economic disparity.

Velayati is accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Mansuri, head of the Majlis Foreign Affairs Committee Seyyed Raja'i Khorasani, and Director General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs 'Abdol Qasem Tabataba'i. Narasimha Rao was also accompanied by secretary S.K. Singh and a number of other officials.

Bilateral trade between Iran and India is about U.S. dlrs [dollars] 200 million. India mainly imports crude oil from iran while exports a number of items including tea, spices, jute, rice, leather and engineering goods.

The Iranian foreign minister is due to leave for Belgrade Wednesday morning.

Seeks Reconstruction Role

BK3008035889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, held discussions with his Indian counterpart, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that during the 90-minute meeting both the leaders discussed several issues including Non-aligned Movement, the situation in Afghanistan, Lebanon, and Cambodia and bilateral relations. The spokesman said there has been a broad agreement on a wide range of political issues.

Welcoming the Iranian foreign minister, Dr Velayati, Mr Narasimha Rao appreciated the manner in which Iran has taken India into confidence and the efforts it made to have mutual consultations at frequent intervals.

Dr Velayati expressed the hope that the India-Iranian Joint Economic Commission will meet in Tehran soon to usher in a new period of cooperation between the two countries. Dr Velayati said Iran is poised to undertake a major program of reconstruction in the country and India could play a positive role in its efforts.

Iran

Majlis Continues Debate on New Ministers

LD2908114589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Debate and studies of the programs of the future government and the ministers that have been introduced by the president continued today in the open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. Our correspondent reports on today's open session of the Majlis.

[Correspondent] Debate and reviews concerning the qualifications and the programs of 22 of the ministers proposed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued in the open session of the Majlis. In this session, after a number of deputies spoke, Mr Karrubi, the Majlis speaker, made some remarks in which he assessed the views of deputies who had declared their reasons for their approval or disapproval and described the new cabinet as a successful government. He added: Among the ministers proposed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani—with a vote of confidence in mind—more than one-third of the members of this cabinet belong to

the esteemed families of martyrs and we hope that they will be successful in serving the deprived and in preserving the values of the revolution and Islam.

After the remarks by the Majlis speaker, 7 of the 22 proposed ministers defended their future programs with the aim of obtaining a vote of confidence.

The open session of the Majlis recessed today at 1200. A few moments ago the session resumed and, following some of the proposed ministers' speeches and remarks by the president, the voting will take place and the results announced. I will add that up to now (?44) of the Majlis deputies, during a 10-hour period, have declared their reasons for approving or disapproving the president's proposed Cabinet members.

Speaker Supports Nominees

LD2908114989 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's proposed cabinet won overall support from the chairman of the Majlis Tuesday on the final day of a confidence debate.

Majlis Speaker Mahdi Karrubi addressed deputies before ministers began defending their programs and qualifications in preparation for the vote.

"Altogether I see Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Cabinet as a successful one and one that supports the deprived... and whose members have worked hard for the revolution," he said.

"It is a cabinet that has experience, proficiency, competence and faith with full revolutionary credentials." He said professional competence "is very important for solving people's problems."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi said this did not mean he did not have reservations about any of the ministerial candidates. He said he himself had doubts about one or two of them.

But the Majlis speaker assured deputies that if ministers won a vote of confidence it did not mean that they would not come under close scrutiny by the Majlis while in office.

He stressed that the Majlis had a number of powers to investigate and supervise the activities of ministeries and even to dismiss them. "Our hands will not be tied if a minister gets the vote," he said.

In past debates on the cabinet at least one minister has failed to get clearance.

Leader Ayatollah Khamene'i and former Chief Justice 'Abdol Karim Musavi-Ardabili have urged the Majlis not to let any ministry remain without a head in the present circumstances and to make a fair, non-partisan decision.

Voting on each minister is due to take place in the afternoon when the 22 proposed ministers finish their speech.

Papers Cited on Cabinet Choices

LD2908115789 Tehran IRNA in English 1018 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—The Iranian Majlis may not endorse the entire presidential nominees for the new cabinet in its today's voting, two morning dailies' editorials predicted Tuesday [29 August].

The English daily TEHRAN TIMES quoting political observers said those who are likely to collect the largest number of votes are 'Abdollah Nuri—interior minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati—foreign minister, Mohammad Khatami—minister of the Islamic Guidance and Mohammad Gharazi—post, telegraph and telephone minister.

The editorial also predicted that Iraj Fazel, nominee for Ministry of Health, Serajeddin Kazeruni for Housing Ministry and 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji for Ministry of Commerce are likely to be in the balance.

The Persian daily ABRAR hailed the Majlis deputies for scrutinizing the deputies in the past two days' debates in the Majlis examining competence of the nominees and said "it is entirely justifiable and proper."

"Considering the prevalent atmosphere in the Majlis, the speeches by deputies and the composition of the Cabinet, it seems that most probably the majority of the nominees, with the exception of two or three, will be able to receive votes of confidence," ABRAR said.

"The statements made in Majlis in favor or against certain nominees indicate that deputies attach special importance to the candidates' performance in the past years, especially to those in key posts," it added.

"This, may result in turning down of few candidates by the deputies and is indicative of great importance that the people's representatives attach to the reconstruction era and to the Cabinet of construction," ABRAR noted.

The TEHRAN TIMES also reiterated that "even if there is not going to be full endorsement of the entire Cabinet by the Majlis as a whole... it will not still affect the future workings and efficiency of the executive arm of the government...."

Majlis Vote of Confidence Approves Cabinet

NC2908170689 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug 29, IRNA—The Majlis Tuesday approved all of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet in an unprecedented vote of confidence.

More than half of the 22 proposed ministers received approval from two thirds of the 261 deputies present in the Majlis which had never endorsed the whole Cabinet in previous debates.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who led the Majlis for nine years before becoming president, opened and closed the three-day sometimes heated debate with a plea that deputies should vote without partisan considerations.

The president's men were backed by leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i as well as Majlis speaker Mehdi Karrubi who described the Cabinet as altogether competent, proficient and in favor of the poor.

But some ministers felt the heat as deputies insisted on speaking their mind and expressing criticism where they thought necessary.

Thirty four deputies spoke for or against the proposed ministers who defended themselves before the final vote.

"You have heard the opponents and supporters speak, as well as what the ministers and I had to say," Hashemi-Rafsanjani said before deputies began to cast their secret ballots.

"Now I want you to have God in mind and vote according to whatever decision you have made without any partisan considerations."

Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri received the sixth highest vote, after Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh, Higher Education Minister Mostafa Mo'in, Defense and Armed Forces Logistics [Minister] Akbar Torkan, Energy Minister Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh and Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammad Khatami.

But Housing Minister Serajeddin Kazeruni was only 13 votes clear of the minimum 132 votes needed for approval.

Also Information Minister 'Ali Fallahiyan got the fourth lowest vote, only higher than Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji, and Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji.

After reading the historic results, Speaker Karrubi wished all the best for the new cabinet and thanked the deputies for their patience.

"I wish success for members of the Cabinet and the president and I hope they will succeed in carrying out their plans," Karrubi said. He added: "I thank Majlis representatives who observed Islamic principles in their debates..."

Karrubi also thanked the previous Cabinet members, and in particular named outgoing Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and former Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

Ministers had to received a minimum of 132 votes (half the deputies plus one) to get clearance. Their names with number of votes for, against and abstentions are:

1. Agriculture: 'Isa Kalantari—186, 53, 20
2. Commerce: 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji (new)—147, 93, 18
3. Construction Jihad: Gholamreza Foruzesh—221, 30, 10
4. Defense, Armed Forces Logistics: Akbar Torkan (new)—242, 10, 9
5. Economics and Finance: Mohsen Nurbakhsh (new)—195, 43, 19
6. Education: Mohammad 'Ali Najafi—160, 86, 12
7. Energy: Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh—245, 5, 7
8. Foreign Affairs: 'Ali Akbar Velayati—213, 35, 10
9. Health: Iraj Fazel (new)—165, 86, 9
10. Heavy Industries: Mohammad Hadi Nezhad-Hoseynian (new)—219, 26, 11
11. Higher Education: Mostafa Mo'in—237, 14, 6
12. Housing: Serajeddin Kazeruni—145, 97, 14
13. Industries: Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh (new)—217, 28, 12
14. Information: 'Ali Fallahiyan (new)—158, 79, 18
15. Interior: 'Abdollah Nuri (new)—224, 20, 15
16. Islamic Guidance: Mohammad Khatami—246, 10, 4
17. Justice: 'Ali Shushtari (new)—209, 30, 18
18. Labor: Hoseyn Kamali (new)—224, 18, 16
19. Mines and Metals: Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji (new)—150, 85, 22
20. Oil: Gholamreza Aqazadeh—231, 18, 10
21. Post, Telegraph and Telephone: Mohammad Gharazi—230, 16, 11
22. Transportation: Mohammad Seyyed-Kya—222, 21, 9.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Thanks Majlis

LD2908173489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Following the vote of confidence given by the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly to the ministers President Hashemi-Rafsanjani proposed, the president sent a message of gratitude to Majlis Speaker Karrubi. The text of the message is as follows:

In His exalted name. Esteemed brother, Hojjat ol-Eslam val- Moslemin Your Excellency Mr Karrubi, the honorable speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. After greetings, I deem it appropriate to convey my gratitude and thanks to the esteemed deputies of the Islamic Consultative Assembly for confirming all the proposed ministers. May God bestow upon all of us success in performing our duties, expressing our gratitude to God, and achieving the trust and support of the esteemed leader and the Hezbollahi deputies of the Majlis.

[Signed] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran

President Defends Ministers

LD2908182589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Majlis deputies, after 3 days of discussion and debate, voted with a large majority for the 22

ministers proposed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Our correspondent reports from today's open session of the Majlis:

[Correspondent] The Islamic Consultative Assembly after 3 days of discussion and debate, gave its vote of confidence in today's open session to 22 ministers proposed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In that session, after speeches made by some deputies, Karrubi—the Majlis speaker—gave a speech pointing out the fact that more than one third of the new Cabinet are members of families of esteemed martyrs. He further predicted success for the future government. Some of the ministers, in reply to remarks made by the deputies, then defended their plans. Then President Hashemi-Rafsanjani made a speech, stating:

[Announcer] The work of debate on the Cabinet was carried out as it was befitting of a free parliament. The president pointed to some of the general issues raised by the deputies, and once again stressed that the ministers' plans must be later presented to the Majlis—within the framework of the 5-year plan or the annual budget—in order to be ratified so that they can be implemented. He then replied to the opinions expressed by some deputies, stating: The fact that the Cabinet is functional [kari boodan] is no weakness. The Cabinet members, while possessing political characteristics as members did before, also possess the characteristic of being functional, as we are in the era of reconstruction. He said: In the past, for various reasons, 50 or 60 percent of plans ratified by the Majlis used to be implemented. However, present conditions differ from those in the past. We hope that in the next decade the new Cabinet will be a functional cabinet capable of implementing all the ratified plans.

In another part of his speech, the president pointed to the opposing views expressed about four or five ministers by Majlis deputies. Defending them, he said: Under the present conditions, without those ministers, we would have to appoint temporary supervisors for some of the ministries which would cause serious problems for the executive affairs of the country.

[Correspondent] After Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks, voting took place through paper balloting, and Karrubi announced the results.

[Announcer] In conclusion of today's Majlis session, Majlis Speaker Karrubi thanked the deputies and the ministers, while paying tribute to the services of Mir Hoseyn Musavi—the former prime minister—and wishing success to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Ministers' Biographies Detailed

LD2908180789 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—The following are brief biographies of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet members approved by an unprecedented vote of confidence in the Majlis Tuesday: Gholamreza Foruzesh, construction jihad: born to a religious middle-class family in Dezful, Khuzestan Province, in 1965.

After the Islamic revolution, one of the original leading officials of the construction jihad in Khuzestan Province, member of the Central Council of Construction Jihad, in charge of construction operations in provinces during Iraq-Iran war, minister of construction jihad since 1988.

Mohammad Gharazi, post, telephone and telegraph: born to a religious family in Esfahan in 1941, received B.S. from Tehran University's School of Engineering in 1964.

Traveled to France in 1967 and 1970 for studies in power transmission and distribution and gas turbines.

After 1973 involved in the newly-found Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, deputy governor-general of Kordestan Province 1979, governor-general of Khuzestan Province in 1980, oil minister 1981, and minister of post, telegraph and telephone since 1985.

'Isa Kalantari, agriculture: born in Marand, E. Azarbayjan Province in 1952, B.S. degree in farming from Orumiyeh College of Agriculture in 1973, M.S. degree from University of Nebraska, Ph.D. in agriculture from Iowa State University.

After revolution, in charge of agricultural development organization, deputy minister of agriculture in charge of research, head of department of horticulture at teacher training university, and minister of agriculture since 1988.

Mohammad Khatami, Islamic guidance: born to a religious family in Ardakan, Yazd Province in 1943. After elementary and high school education in Ardakan and later in Qom, travelled to Hamburg, West Germany for engagement at the Islamic Center there.

Became Majlis deputy in 1980, appointed leadership's representative at KEYHAN newspaper also in 1980, and has been minister of Islamic guidance and culture since 1982.

Heavy industries, Mohammad Hadi Nezhad Hoseynian: born in Tehran 1946, master of science degree from Tehran University's School of Engineering in 1970, M.S. in structural engineering from U.S. in 1976.

Since Islamic revolution, has been in charge of the development section of the Foundation for the Disabled (ex-Mostazafahan), was transport minister and deputy oil minister in charge of engineering and development projects in previous cabinets.

'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign affairs: born in Shemiran, north Tehran, in 1945, completed studies in Tehran and studied political science in 1961, but went on to receive

medical degree in pediatrics from Tehran Univesity in 1974. Same year he became academic member of Health Science College.

After revolution appointed deputy minister of health 1979-80, Majlis deputy 1980, and foreign minister since 1981.

Sarajeddin Kazeruni, housing: born in Esfahan, 1946. Master of arts in architectural engineering from Tehran University in 1976.

After 1979, he was deputy governor-general of Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Province, deputy interior minister in 1981, minister of housing since 1984.

Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, energy: born in Bakhtaran in 1952, completed master of science with honors degree in civil engineering from Tehran University.

Became academic member of Tehran University after the Islamic revolution in 1979, member of the Central Council of Construction Jihad in 1982, and its minister in 1984. Was moved over to head the energy ministry in 1988.

Mohammad Seyyed Kya, roads and transport: born in Esfahan 1946, master of science degree from Science and Technology University of Iran in 1969.

Was superintendent of Iranian railways and railroad facilities for sometime after the Islamic revolution, and has served as minister transport since [no date as received].

Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluji, mines and metals: born Kashan, Central Province in 1947, received B.S. in mechanical engineering from Tehran Institute of Technology.

After the Islamic revolution served in various functions in Kordestan and Lorestan Provinces, and has won a seat in all the past three terms of the Majlis.

Was representative of the acting Armed Forces commander-in-chief in the armament industry, in charge of military industries since the outbreak of the war.

Gholamreza Aqazadeh, oil: born in Khvoy, West Azarbayjan Province in 1948, B.S. in math and computer science from Tehran University in 1970.

After the Islamic revolution, was administrative manager of daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, deputy minister of foreign affairs in 1981, later deputy prime minister in charge of executive affairs, and oil minister since 1985.

Akbar Torkan, defense and armed forces logistics: born in Tehran in 1952, degree in mechanical engineering from Sharif Technical University.

After graduation he taught in Tehran schools for four years and worked another four years in construction and industrial firms.

After the victory of the revolution worked in construction jihad, later appointed governor of Ilam and Hormozgan Provinces.

His previous official post was managing director of the defence industries.

Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh, industries: born in Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Province in 1946, has an engineering degree and M.A. in industrial management from the United States.

Active in Islamic organizations before the Islamic revolution, later briefly in charge of the revolutionary committee in the Labour Ministry, later minister of labour, and minister of industries. He was also head of the power generation and distribution organization (Tavanir) and head of the aeronautics industries before his latest appointment.

Mohammad Shushtari, justice: born in Quchan, Khorasan Province in 1950. Attended theological schools in Qom and later in Najaf, Iraq. He worked in the late Imam Khomeyni's office when he was in exile in Najaf.

After Islamic revolution, became member of Islamic Revolution's Prosecutor's Office in Tehran. Majlis deputy for two terms and before designation in his ministerial post, was administrative head of state prisons.

Mohammad 'Ali Najafi, culture and education: born in Tehran in 1952, he has an engineering degree from Tehran's Sharif University, and an M.S. in mathematics from Boston's Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

After Islamic revolution: dean of Sharif University, was minister of higher education in 1982-84. Rejoined cabinet last year as education minister.

'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji, commerce: born in 1949 in Tehran, has B.A. in business administration. Was in charge of news at the Iranian Radio and Television after the revolution and soon afterwards joined the Ministry of Commerce. He became deputy commerce minister in 1986, and acting commerce minister in 1988.

Hoseyn Kamali, labor: born in Tehran in 1953, worked as he attended night school, received diploma from technical high school. Was active as organizer of workers strikes during revolution.

After victory of the Islamic revolution: in charge of labor section of the Revolutionary Council, and has been Majlis deputy for three terms.

Iraj Fazel, health: born in Ardestan, Esfahan Province, in 1939, studied medicine at Tehran University, and later at Ohio University, U.S., to become a surgeon.

After the revolution was associate professor at Tehran's Martyr Beheshti Medical University and was minister of culture and higher education in 1984. He was one of the chief doctors who look after the late Imam Khomeyni.

Mohsen Nurbakhsh, economic and financial affairs: born in Esfahan in 1948, B.A. in economy from Tehran University, PH.D. in economy from U.S.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution was proposed minister of economic and financial affairs in 1980 by the late Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i but his nomination was rejected by then President 'Abolhasan Bani Sadr.

Became governor of Central Bank in 1981 and stayed on until 1986. He won a Majlis seat from Tehran in 1988.

Dr. Mostafa Mo'in, higher education: born in Najafabad in 1951, M.D. from Shiraz University in pediatrics, later associate professor at Esfahan University and dean of Shiraz University.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution: Majlis deputy from Shiraz in 1982, and Imam Khomeyni's personal representative at the Cultural Revolution Council.

'Ali Fallahiyan, information: born to a religious family in Najafabad, Esfahan Province, in 1949. Studied in Qom Theological School.

After victory of the Islamic revolution, was religious judge in Abadan and Bakhtaran. Was acting general prosecutor in 1982, and later head of the Islamic Revolutionary Committees.

Was first deputy Information Ministry, special judge for the clergy in 1987, and head of the inspectorate organization in the Armed Forces in 1989.

'Abdollah Nuri, interior: born in Esfahan 1950, studied at Esfahan and Qom Theological Schools.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution was head of radio and television, leadership's representative construction jihad and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Majlis deputy from Esfahan and head of the Majlis Plan and Budget Committee. Was member of Constitutional Review Council.

Dailies Praise Approval of Cabinet

LD3008082789 Tehran IRNA in English 0758 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30 IRNA—Two morning dailies Wednesday lauded President Hashemi-Rafsanjani for getting an unprecedented approval for all 22 members of its cabinet from the Majlis on Tuesday.

The new cabinet will officially start its work today which, in fact, marks the beginning of the era of construction and progress, said the Persian daily ABRAR.

"Today is the beginning of the crucial period of country's construction after long years of resistance against aggression and destructive plots of the enemies of the revolution and the Islamic Iran."

"Today, the nation and the country's authorities reaffirm their pledge to get Iran moving towards progress and development. Today is the beginning of a nationwide effort to construct and rebuild the country in a manner suitable for an Islamic society," ABRAR said.

"In light of capability of the new president and his cabinet, the nation strongly believes that the 'cabinet of construction' will shoulder its task with full strength and complete it successfully," stressed the editorial.

The other Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said that expectations have been raised in every Iranian citizen that the executive system is able to take more efficient steps in solving problems and removing obstacles in executive affairs. The revised Constitution which gives extensive power to the president is the reason for the optimism.

"The people are right to expect the executive system to make efforts, with no delay, to embark on reconstruction and serve the nation, the deprived in particular."

It proposed "the government should not merely concentrate on industrial and economic progress but rather, parallel to it or even with a greater priority, it should serve to promote Islamic and revolutionary culture of the society."

No more delay is advisable in erradication of the filthy remnants of the past regime—bribery and extortion. The increased power of the judicial and the executive systems now makes the task easier, it added.

"Now, it is the time to prepare the ground for major accomplishment," concluded JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

Yazdi Announces More Judiciary Appointments

LD2908125189 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—'Ali Yunesi is appointed Tehran's public prosecutor and Ebrahim Raeisi [name as received] Tehran's revolutionary prosecutor, it was announced here Tuesday.

The appointments were made by head of judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi after being proposed by prosecutor General Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri.

Meanwhile Ayatollah Yazdi Monday appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abolfazl Musavi as head of the Administrative Justice Tribunal.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi has served as Majlis deputy and also head of the Legal and Judiciary Commission of the Majlis.

Velayati Interviewed Before Leaving for India

LD2908120189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Mr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, left for New Delhi this morning at the head of a delegation with the aim of exchanging views with Indian Government officials and authorities about mutual relations, future cooperation between the two countries, and international issues including the Nonaligned Movement. Our reporter spoke to Mr Velayati at Mehrabad Airport:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr Velayati, what will be the result of your visit to India on the threshold of the meeting of the nonaligned heads of state, in view of the fact that India is one of the strong (?pillars of that movement)? And what will you talk about with the Indian authorities?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The aim of my visit is to meet the honorable Indian officials and authorities. We have a message from his Eminence mr Hashemi-Rafsajani, the Islamic Republic of Iran's honorable president, for His Eminence Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the honorable Indian prime minister. It is in fact a reply to his recent message to His Eminence Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In addition to submitting the message and holding talks with His Eminence Mr Rajiv Gandhi, we will meet with His Eminence Mr Rao Narasimha, the honorable foreign minister of India, and with other Indian officials to discuss mutual relations and future cooperation between the two countries on the international stage, especially in the Nonaligned Movement. We will discuss those things during the visit.

Iran and India are countries which have had deep long-standing cultural, political, social, and [word indistinct] ties. That it is a very good basis for the expansion of ties between the two countries. During recent months, we have witnessed good developments in Iranian-Indian ties. God willing, it will be the beginning of a new era in the positive and constructive relations between Iran and India.

[Reporter] Yes, thank you very much.

[Velayati] You are welcome. [end recording]

In the interview, Mr Velayati added: We think that the Nonaligned Movement should participate more seriously on the international stage, and toward that end, we believe that members of the movement must undertake the necessary consultations before the meeting. With that aim, the Foreign Ministry's deputy for international affairs has undertaken trips to various important member countries of the Nonaligned Movement during the past few days.

Concluding his remarks, Mr Velayati said: The specialized talks of the Nonaligned Movement's (?ninth) meeting will begin on Thursday; the meeting of the foreign ministers of the nonaligned member countries will begin on Friday; and following that, the meeting of the heads of state of the Nonaligned Movement's member countries will open on Tuesday, the week following, in Belgrade.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Israeli Raid on Lebanon

LD2908115189 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 29, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry here Tuesday [29 August] strongly condemned the Sunday Zionist raid of Muslim populated areas of southern Lebanon calling for continuation of Lebanese struggle till overthrow of the occupying Zionist regime.

A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry said that the Zionist regime in continuation of its flagrant violation of international laws, the latest of which being kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, has attacked residential areas in southern Lebanon massacring residents among them many children.

"Such actions will fail to silence the Islamic resistance in the region and will make the Lebanese warriers more determined in their anti-Zionist struggle," it added.

Expressing condolences to families of the victims, the statement urged all Muslim and national forces to intesify their struggle till annihilation of the Zionist regime and return of calm to the region.

Majlis Delegation Leaves for Libya 30 Aug

LD3008064689 Tehran IRNA in English 0643 GMT 30 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA—An Iranian parliamentary delegation led by Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali left for Tripoli Wednesday to attend the ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary of the Libyan revolution, celebrated on September 1.

Khalkhali, Majlis deputy from the holy city of Qom, is carrying a message from President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for the Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

The Iranian delegation among them several Foreign Ministry officials is to meet with Qadhdhafi and other Libyan officials.

Pakistan

Bhutto Reiterates View on Nuclear Nonproliferation

BK2908161089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has reiterated her government's firm commitment to nuclear nonproliferation and said any kind of unilateral step by any country in the subcontinent may trigger an arms race. In an interview with AFP, she clarified Pakistan's peaceful

atomic policy. The prime minister made the reminder that Pakistan has initiated steps for a regional-level discussion on this issue. She emphatically said that only this kind of discussion will provide a guarantee preventing the threat of a proliferation of nuclear arms in the subcontinent.

Further on Bhutto Interview

BK2908143689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1417 GMT 29 Aug 89

[By Rene Slama]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Aug 29 (AFP)—[Passage omitted] In a wide-ranging discussion, the 36-year-old prime minister, whose country maintains good relations with both the United States and Iran, also said Pakistan was willing to help mediate in the Lebanese hostage crisis and that she hoped to go to Iran "at the earliest opportunity."

Although the United States had not asked Islamabad to raise the hostage issue with Teheran, "if Pakistan could play a useful role in this matter of the hostages it will be good for all," she said.

"After the commonwealth summit (in Kuala Lumpur in October), I would like to be able to visit Iran and some other countries before the end of the year," said Ms Bhutto, who took office in December.

Earlier this month, Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan held talks with Iranian officials in Teheran on the hostage crisis.

Ms Bhutto also said Pakistan wanted a negotiated settlement in neighboring Afghanistan, where mujahidin guerrillas have been waging a fierce and protracted battle against the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah.

"Pakistan is quite clear that it will do what it can to work for a negotiated settlement which insures an independent Afghanistan, a representative government which can provide political stability and thereby enable the refugees to go back home," she said.

Some 3.5 million refugees from the Afghan war are now living in Pakistan.

She said Afghanistan's ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) remained the key obstacle to peace.

"The hard-line PDPA remains the stumbling block to a political settlement but they are trying to persuade the Soviet Union to fight it out and let the Afghan interim government (of mujahidin) exhaust themselves," she said.

"When we have an unstable situation (in Afghanistan) that instability feeds on further instability," she noted.

Ms Bhutto said Islamabad had begun steps to open a "regional discussion" on nuclear disarmament, but noted that India, with whom Pakistan has fought three wars since independence in 1947, "has some hesitations on this point."

She said such discussions were "the sure way to guarantee an end to the threat of nuclear proliferation" on the subcontinent.

"We feel that any one-sided action by any country in the subcontinent can trigger off a nuclear arms race," said Ms Bhutto.

India exploded what it called a peaceful nuclear device in 1974, in northwestern Rajasthan State on the Pakistan border. It has repeatedly said that it is not engaged in manufacturing a nuclear weapon but would review its options if Pakistan produced one.

India, like Pakistan, is not a signatory to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

Federal Minister To Meet Punjab Chief Sharif

BK2908171189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Aug 89

[Text] The federal minister for law, justice, and provincial relations, Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, will meet the Punjab chief minister, Nawaz Sharif, in Lahore tomorrow and will discuss matters on national interest. The agenda and timeframe for the first meeting of the Provincial Coordination Committee, which was set up last July, are also expected to be be discussed. The federal minister informed ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Islamabad today that he would meet the Punjab chief minister with an open mind in order to discuss every aspect in the establishment of cordial relations between the center and the Punjab government. He expressed the hope that this meeting would help in overcoming certain complaints between the federal and provincial governments. The federal minister said he believes that his meeting with Nawaz Sharif would reduce the current political confrontation in the country. Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani said he would make efforts to gain the cooperation of the provincial chief minister so as to make the Provincial Coordination Committee an effective platform to overcome differences on various issues.

It is expected that the federal minister will meet the Baluchistan chief minister, Nawab Mohammad Akbar Khan Bugti, next week and will discuss with him issues that will brought under discussion by the Provincial Coordination Committee.

He has already met with the chief ministers of Sind and NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province].

Meanwhile, political circles are describing the forthcoming meeting of the federal minister and the Punjab chief minister as an important step of the federal government for the establishment of good relations between the center and provincial governments.

Petroleum Minister Discusses Oil, Gas Production

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[Text] Oil production in the country has reached 62,000 barrels a day, meeting 50 percent of domestic requirements. This was stated by Federal Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Jahangir Badar during a meeting with Nigerian Ambassador M.L. Sambo in Islamabad yesterday. They exchanged views on bilateral cooperation in the oil and gas sectors. The federal minister said that efforts are under way to make the country self-sufficient in oil. They have been fruitful so far, and oil has been discovered at various places. He said that first offshore drilling will begin in October.

During another meeting with the Canadian ambassador, Jahangir Badar exchanged views on oil and gas exploration by Canadian companies in Pakistan. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the current cooperation between the two countries in this field.